

PPE Buying: A Quick Guide for Procurement

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1. Introduction

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is currently a huge influx of offers to supply PPE to the Welsh public sector. Critical items such as face masks and gloves fall into various classes and categories of both Medical Devices and PPE. Guidance on understanding whether products being offered are approved for sale in the UK is therefore published by various organisations and can't easily be accessed from one place.

NPS, following consultation with a number of organisations such as BSIF, SMTL, MHRA and its supply base, have collated this guidance for their Procurement Staff which attempts to identify commonly procured items and provide details of what documentation you should expect to see if authorised for sale in the UK.

NPS are currently seeing a huge amount of suspect PPE Documentation from a wide variety of sources. We will also provide guidance on what to look out for in this regard.

Any queries can be directed to NPSCorporateServices@gov.wales.

4. Counterfeit Products

All certificates must be in English, not redacted, amended or written over.

At some point in your certification reviews you will come across a CE certificate like the one below from ECM or ICR Polska. They are attached to many of the offers we receive from individuals and suppliers offering to import stock from the Far East.



It is important to be aware that....

- ECM and ICR Polska are not notified bodies for PPE. They are a notified body in relation to other legislation but not the PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425.
- ECM have received a letter from the Italian accreditation body (Accredia) requiring them to stop issuing those kind of certificates, otherwise they will lose the accreditation they have and they will be removed from the accredited lab list.
- ECM and ICR Polska certificates, despite appearances, are NOT CE Type Certificates – they are certificates that allow manufacturers to place the ECM/ICR Polska stamp on their products, which has no meaning in relation to CE Marking.
- There are many other examples of fake certification and guidance can be found via the European Safety Federation note on fake certification.