

Could you spot a fake one?

Sadly, there are a lot of people out there taking advantage of the coronavirus pandemic and claiming they have 'cheap' PPE masks, just to line their pockets a little more.

Fake masks will not offer you the protection required, and you might not even know you are wearing one.

So, we have put together a little article to help you identify the 'goodies' from the 'baddies'

How could you tell a mask was real? Simple answer markings and certification.

However, you might not know what these should look like still - so here is a more in-depth explanation.

European Standard EN149 FFP must have:

- Manufacturer name or logo
- European standard number - EN149:2001
- European certification mark
- Manufacturer model number
- filtering facepiece class (NR single shift use/R reusable)
- Notifiable body reference responsible for product certification

Finally, real masks will always have an Examination certificate or Declaration of Conformity form, and a manufacturers instruction manual.



For maximum protection you want to be looking for a European Standard EN-149 mask.

However, there are other masks on the market as well. The other masks approved for wearing against COVID are only designed to be used as protection, they cannot be used for inhalation control.

Let's take a look at what markings they should have to prove they are genuine....

#fakemasks

NIOSH APR-FFR FFP standard must have:

- Manufacturer name or logo
- The word NIOSH
- NIOSH approval number
- Manufacturers model number
- Manufacturers lot number
- Filtering facepiece class

Chinese GB2626-2006 KN95 standard must have:

- Manufacturer name or logo
- Chinese Standard - GB2626-2006
- Manufacturer model number
- Filtering facepiece class



Do you think you would know the difference now?

- Checks for correct markings and a Certificate or Declaration of Conformity
- Check the standard references
- Check there is a manufacturers manual
- Check the product quality
- Check spellings

And... if in doubt ASK.

Please remember we are advising on PPE masks.

We understand homemade masks are being encouraged for general wear to help to stop the spread of the disease, and we are supportive of this cause.

However, in a work environment where masks were essential before the crisis, homemade are not suitable.

So, is your mask protecting you?

Please speak to one of our team if you are unsure and would like some guidance

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#fakemasks