Are you sure that your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is legal and its supporting documentation is genuine and relates directly to the performance of the equipment?



Despite the best efforts of the market policing authorities and ourselves at the BSIF, there are still illegal items of PPE being placed on the market.

Counterfeit PPE and in particular, counterfeit supporting documentation are notably on the increase. Well-known brands and Notified/ Approved Bodies are being targeted and there are products being offered that make claims of compliance to BS, EN & ISO standards and offer dubious proof that this is the case.

Often these products do not perform as they should, endangering lives and exposing organisations to the risk of prosecution.

In addition to the work the BSIF have done through our Registered Safety Supplier Scheme, helping to signpost PPE users to reliable suppliers who commit to provide only compliant PPE and are audited on an annual basis by the BSIF, we have also

established links with Government to highlight fake and incorrect supporting documentation and have these removed.

This guide offers advice on how to check if the supporting documentation for your PPE is genuine and what to do if you are concerned.

### How easy is it to spot a counterfeit, illegal or incorrect certificate?

All PPE must be supplied with instructions for use and be appropriately tested and marked with a relevant conformity mark - UKCA for Great Britain and UKNI or CE for Northern Ireland. PPE must also be supplied with User Instructions and a Declaration of Conformity or a link to a website where a Declaration of Conformity can be downloaded.

Without these, the product is illegal to use as protective equipment in the workplace (please note until January 2022 conformity assessment under the CE regime remains acceptable in GB).

You can – and should – request to see the Certification relating to any PPE, and whilst it is not a legal requirement for suppliers to provide this, many will be happy to show that their products comply and have been certified. They MUST provide the User Instructions and Declaration of Conformity in any case.

There are a number of pieces of information that must be included on any certificate and, if these are not evident, then you should be suspicious of the claims made. We provide a checklist for these pieces of information on the next page of this guide. We also look at what should be included on a Declaration of Conformity.





#### **CE Certificate Checklist**

Checklist	Yes	No
Does the certificate contain a certificate number or reference and a		
statement that it remains the property of the notified body?		
Does the certificate clearly contain the notified body's name and number (4 digits – i.e. 0123)?		
Does the certificate include a signature/name of individual certifying the		
product on behalf of the notified body?		
If CE Marked is the notified body from within the EU? There are few		
Non-EU notified bodies, so please exercise caution		
IF UKCA or UKNI Marked is the Approved Body from within the UK? There are currently no Approved Body's based outside of the UK		
Does the certificate show a date of issue and a date of expiry (will be		
maximum of 5 years from the date of issue)?		
Does the certificate state that the PPE certified is in accordance with PPE		
Regulation (EU) 2016/425 (for CE), Regulation 2016/425 on Personal		
Protective Equipment as brought into UK Law and amended (for England,		
Scotland and Wales) Regulation EU 2016/425 on Personal Protective Equipment for Northern Ireland?		
Does the certificate include the full name and address of the		
Manufacturer?		
Does the certificate contain a clear description of the product(s)		
certified, including model references, specifications and test report		
references?		
Does the certificate include a full list of the terms and conditions (often		
provided as an additional page or a link to a webpage)?		
Are there any indications that the certificate has been tampered with		
(different fonts, font sizes, colour changes etc.)?		

If you have answered 'No' to one or more of these questions and/or yes to the last question then you should immediately contact the PPE supplier for advice.

You can also contact the Notified or Approved Body relating to any certificate and confirm its authenticity. A list of notified bodies within the EU and the product risk category they are scoped for, can be viewed via the following link;

https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=directive.notifiedbody&dir\_id=155501

A list of Approved Bodies in the UK can be found via the following link

https://www.gov.uk/uk-market-conformity-assessment-bodies?uk market conformity assessment body legislative area% 5B%5D=personal-protective-equipment

# **Declaration of Conformity**

The Declaration of Conformity is another piece of supporting documentation that has seen a substantial increase in dubious/counterfeit content finding its way onto the market.

The Declaration of Conformity is not a quality certificate or guarantee of safety; it is instead a declaration by the manufacturer that the PPE specified on the Declaration of Conformity complies with the requirements of the relevant legislation. The Declaration must include certain information and be issued by the manufacturer of the PPE; on the next page, we provide a checklist for assessment of any Declaration of Conformity.





# **Declaration of Conformity – Checklist**

Checklist	Yes	No
Does the declaration state a description of the PPE concerned, including		
the product reference, type of PPE & batch or serial number?		
Does the declaration state the manufacturers name and full address		
and/or where appropriate their authorised representative?		
Does the declaration state that it is issued under the sole responsibility		
of the manufacturer?		
Does the declaration state the object of the declaration – identifying the		
PPE for traceability purposes (a colour image may be included)?		
Does the declaration state that this PPE is in conformity with the relevant		
legislation for PPE - PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425 (for CE), Regulation		
2016/425 on Personal Protective Equipment as brought into UK Law and		
amended (for England, Scotland and Wales), Regulation EU 2016/425 on		
Personal Protective Equipment (for Northern Ireland?		
Does the declaration detail the relevant standards that the PPE is		
compliant with, including the date of the standard?		
If not, does it refer to other technical specifications, including the date of		
the specification to which conformity is declared?		
Does the declaration detail the Notified Body or Approved Body who		
performed the EU/UKCA or UKNI type examination (module B)? This		
must be referenced by both Name & Number		
Does the declaration detail all the relevant EU or UKCA/UKNI certificate		
reference numbers?		
If applicable, does the declaration state that the PPE is subject to a		
conformity assessment procedure (Module C2 or Module D)?		
If applicable, does the declaration state the details of the Notified Body		
or Approved body who provides the surveillance of the conformity		
assessment procedure?		
Does the declaration carry a signature and/or description of the		
individual at the manufacturer responsible for issuing the declaration?		

If you have answered 'No' to any of the above questions, or have not been provided with a Declaration of Conformity then you should raise this with the supplier of the PPE or the listed Manufacturer/Authorised representative.



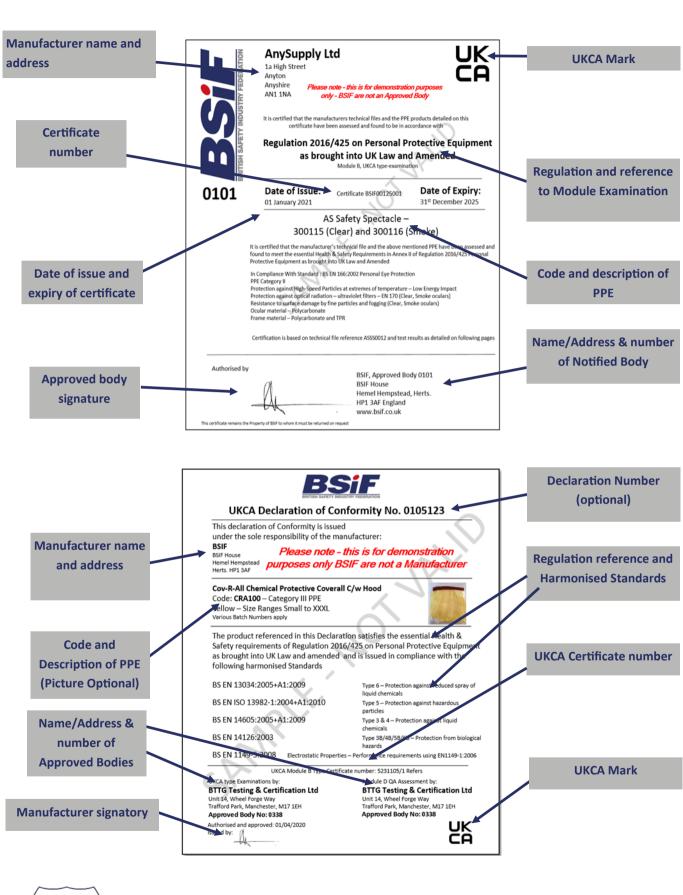


#### **Examples of conforming Documents—EU/CE** AnySupply Ltd 1a High Street Certificate number Manufacturer name and Anyton address Anyshire 旭 only - BSIF are not an Appro It is certified that the manufacturers technical files and the PPE products detailed on this certificate have been assessed and found to be in accordance with PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425 **CE Mark (optional)** Date of issue and Module B, EU type-examination expiry of Date of Issue: Date of Expiry **Regulation and reference** certificate 01 April 2020 31st March 2025 to Module Examination AS Safety Spectacle -300115 It is certified that the manufacturer's technical file and above mentioned PPE have been assessed and found to meet the essential Health & Safety Requirements in Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2016/425 Personal Protective **Notified Body** Code and description of Certification is based on technical file reference ASSS0012 **Signature** PPE and test results as detailed on following pages outhorised by BSIF, Notified Body 0101 **BSIF House** Name/Address & number Hemel Hempstead, Herts. of Notified Body HP1 3AF England www.bsif.co.uk This certificate remains the Property of BSIF to whom it must be returned on request BSiF **Declaration Number** Manufacturer (Optional) name and address EU Declaration of Conformity No. 0105123 This declaration of Conformity is issued under the sole responsibility of the manufacturer: BSIF Please note - this is for demonstration DIFFOUSE Home Hempstead Purposes only BSIF are not a Manufacturer Herts. HP13AF **Code and Regulation reference and Description of PPE** Cov-R-All Chemical Protective Coverall C/w Hood Code: CRA100 - Category III PPE **Harmonised Standards** (Picture Optional) Yellow – Size Ranges Small to XXXL Various Batch Numbers apply The product referenced in this Declaration satisfies the essential Health & Safety requirements of Regulation (EU) 2016/425 Personal Productive Equipment Name/Address & The product referenced in this declaration is issued in compliance with **CE Certificate number** following harmonised Standards number of EN 13034:2005+A1:2009 EN 13034:2005+A1:2009 Type 6- Protection against reduced spray of liquid che EN ISO 13982-1:2004+A1:2010 Type 5- Protection against hazardous particles **Approved Bodies** 14605:2005+A1:2009 Type 3 & 4 – Protection against liquid ch EN 14126:2003 EN 1149-5:2008 Type 3B/4B/5B/6B – Protection from prological hazards Properties – Performance requirements using EN1149-1:2006 Electrostatic Properties – Performance ber: 5231105/1 Refers EU Module B Type Certificate no. Module D QA Assessment by: SA:24 Technology Europe Ltd EU type Examinations by: Manufacturer TRA Technology Europe Ltd **CE Mark** Clonee, Dublin, D15 YN2P Notified Body No: 2777 **Signatory** thorised and approved: 01/04/2020 success: A





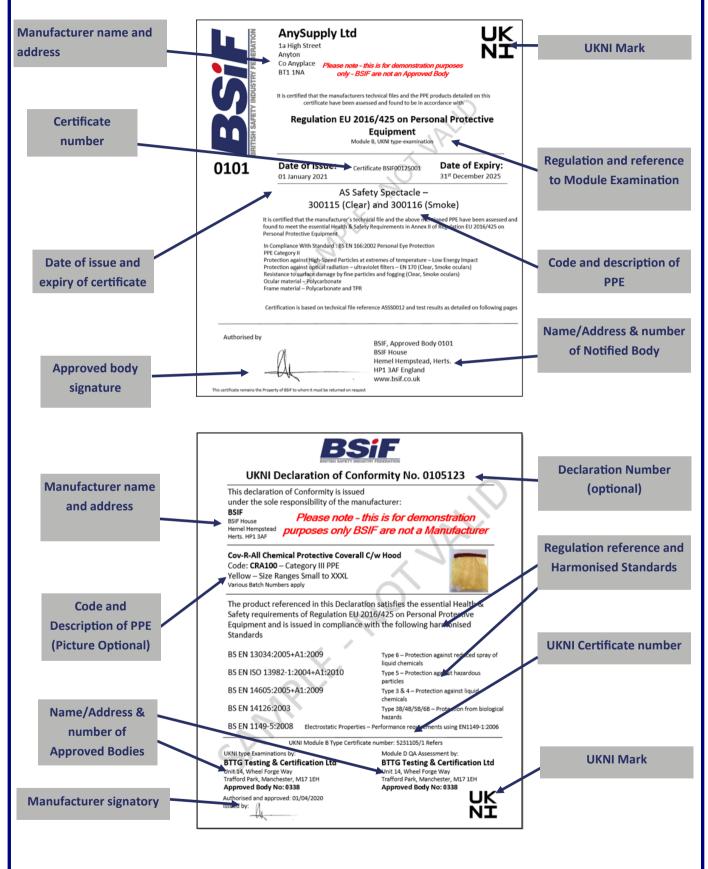
# Examples of conforming Documents—UKCA







# **Examples of conforming Documents—UKNI**







# **Non Conforming Documents**

It is worth highlighting that there are numerous organisations globally who offer conformance documentation based upon their own assessment of the products concerned.

These documents should not be mistaken for CE/UKCA/UKNI Certification or Declarations of Conformity and it is recommended that careful assessment of the wording of documents should be undertaken before accepting them as proof of compliance. Look out for 'Verification of Conformance', 'Conformance Certificate' or similar wording.













If you are still uncertain, please feel free to contact the team at BSIF either by calling 01442 248744 or emailing <a href="mailto:enquiries@bsif.co.uk">enquiries@bsif.co.uk</a> and we will do our best to help.

British Safety Industry Federation
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