

Is it Genuine? - Certificate Checklist

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 surveillance 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 are 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 - CE, UKCA or UKNI. PPE must also be accompanied by User Instructions and a Declaration of Conformity or a link to a website where these can be downloaded.

Without these, the product is illegal to use as protective equipment in the workplace.

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 ensure that the User Instructions and Declaration of Conformity are provided 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.



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 it applies in Great Britain (For UKCA)		
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://webgate.ec.europa.eu/single-market-compliance-space/notified-bodies/notified-body-list?filter=legislationId:155501,notificationStatusId:1>

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

<https://find-a-conformity-assessment-body.service.gov.uk/>

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 -), Regulation 2016/425 on personal protective equipment as it applies in Great Britain , Regulation (EU) 2016/425 on personal protective equipment, as it applies in Northern Ireland when referring to PPE placed on the NI market, or Regulation (EU) 2016/425 on personal protective equipment when referring to PPE placed on the EEA market.		
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?		
For Category III PPE does the declaration state that the PPE is subject to a conformity assessment procedure (Module C2 or Module D)?		
For Category III PPE 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.



Example Certificate

Conformity Body Name & Number	 Approved Body :0001	Issued to: AnySupply Ltd 1a High Street Anyton Anyshire AN1 1NA	Manufacturers Name & Address
Certification Statement	Certificate No. BSIF00125001		Certificate Number
Date Certification Issued	It is certified that this UKCA Type-Examination Certificate relates to the following product groups, which have been tested to the relevant standards or technical specifications and assessment of the related technical file. The product(s) have been found to conform to the essential health & safety requirements of the PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425 as incorporated into UK Law		Date Certificate Expires
Product Reference & Description	Date of Issue: 01/04/2022 Date of Expiry: 31/03/2027		Applicable Standards
Technical File & Test Report References	Product Reference: AS Safety Spectacle Clear Lens – 300115 Smoke Lens – 300116	Standards/Technical Specifications Applied: BS EN 166:2002 Personal Eye Protection PPE Category II Protection against high-speed particles at extremes of temperature – Low Energy Impact Protection against optical radiation – ultraviolet filters – EN 170 (Clear, Smoke Oculars) Ocular Material – Polycarbonate Frame Material – Polycarbonate & TPR	Conformity Mark (Optional) CE, UKCA or UKNI
Signature & Name of Certifier	Signed on behalf of British Safety Industry Federation:  Roy Wilders		Address of Certifying Body. Must be EU based for CE mark and UK based for UKCA/UKNI
	Fourth Floor Offices, The Roberts Building, 48 Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4SQ United Kingdom		



Example Declaration of Conformity

Declaration Title. May be EU or UKCA or UKNI

UKCA Declaration Of Conformity

Declaration Number (optional)

Number 0123456789

This declaration is issued under the sole responsibility of the manufacturer:

Name & Address of Manufacturer

AnySupply Ltd
1a High Street
Anyton
Anyshire
AN1 1NA

Declaration Statement

Who declare that the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) detailed herein , is in conformity with the PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/425 as incorporated into UK Law

Product Reference & Description

Product Reference: **AS Safety Spectacle**
Clear Lens – 300115
Smoke Lens – 300116

Standards Covered by the Declaration

Standards/Technical Specifications Applied: BS EN 166:2002 Personal Eye Protection
PPE Category II
Protection against high-speed particles at extremes of temperature – Low Energy Impact
Protection against optical radiation – ultraviolet filters – EN 170 (Clear, Smoke Oculars)
Ocular Material – Polycarbonate
Frame Material – Polycarbonate & TPR

Details of Certifying Body

Assessment and Certification for this product was carried out by
British Safety Industry Federation (Approved Body 0001) who issued
certificate No. BSIF00125001 on the 1st April 2022

Signed/Dated by the Manufacturer

Signed:
A Murray
A Murray
Technical Compliance Manager
On 03/04/2022

Conformity Mark (Optional) CE, UKCA or UKNI

UKCA

Company Logo (optional).

AnySupply



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 - these are **NOT** CE/UKCA/UKNI certificates or Declarations of Conformity.



If you are still uncertain, please feel free to contact the team at BSIF either by calling 01442 248744 or emailing enquiries@bsif.co.uk and we will do our best to help.

British Safety Industry Federation

Fourth Floor Offices, The Roberts Building
48 Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire, HP2 4SQ

Tel: 01442 248744 Email: enquiries@bsif.co.uk Web: www.bsif.co.uk

Registered in England and Wales - Company Registration No. 02949674

