

Disposable respirators:

Checklist to ensure your respirator will protect you.

Respirators that do not meet approved standards may leave workers unprotected from harmful respiratory risks, and give them a false belief that they are protected.

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased demand for disposable respirators also known as dust masks, and as a result, many businesses (PCBUs) have had difficulty obtaining them for their workers. The extra demand has also resulted in non-compliant and inadequate respiratory protective equipment (RPE) entering the New Zealand market.

Verify legitimacy of issued certificates

Look for a licence number and the manufacturer's name on the certifying body's website. Request the product certification or manufacturer information to verify compliance.

Markings on the mask and packaging?

- Manufacturer's name
- Standard reference
- Classification, e.g. P2
- Size (if applicable)



Does it have a standard number?

- AS/NZS 1716:2012
- N95 masks that are rated compliant by NIOSH
- European 'FFP2' - EN149:2001
- Chinese 'KN95' - GB2626:2006 (2019).

Other helpful hints

- Request photos of the product and packaging.
- If time allows, request a sample. Does the product look and feel right?
- Are there any misspelt words?
- Are manufacturer's user instructions provided?

Fake respirator examples



- Unusual design
- No manufacturer name, logo or model number
- No 'N' or 'NR' marking



- No manufacturer name, logo or model number
- No standard number or marking
- Claims to be a KN95 mask

If in doubt?

Seek advice from an occupational hygienist by visiting

- NZOHS website: nzohs.org.nz
- COVID-19 Helpline: Covid-19@nzohs.org.nz
- HASANZ register: register.hasanz.org.nz