

For the attention of all dental service providers,

It has come to the attention of the Health and Safety Inspectorate (HSI) that a range of face masks designated KN95 (also referred to as filtering face piece respirators) have been identified in circulation in the Island.

The HSI has taken action regarding the sale and use of face masks which are labelled KN95, after the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) issued a Safety Alert <https://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/use-of-face-masks-designated-kn95.htm>. The KN95 masks are manufactured in China and the HSE has quarantined or prohibited all lines of these masks from entering the supply chain.

The HSI has evaluated a number of KN95 masks that have been sold by local retailers. None of these masks have been able to demonstrate compliance with the necessary safety assessments to be used as PPE.

It is understood that a number of dental practices are using KN95 masks to ensure that the respiratory protection required to carry out dental work, particularly during aerosol generating procedures, is effective. It is advised that each practice carries out an urgent review of all face masks in use, and where necessary, robust steps must be taken to ensure they meet the necessary standards to be lawfully placed on the EU market which includes checking the product and the accompanying certification.

It is highlighted that a number of other face masks designated as N95 and N99, also manufactured in China, have also been found to be non-compliant, with evidence of poor quality products accompanied by fake or fraudulent paperwork in a similar manner to the KN95 masks.

You may find it useful to review the following links to compare to the documentation provided by your supplier:

- Personal Protective Equipment Regulations (EU) 2016/425
- European Safety Federation guidance on suspicious masks
<https://www.eu-esf.org/covid-19/4513-covid-19-suspicious-certificates-for-ppe>
- UK Office for Product Safety & Standards – Guidance for new high-volume manufacturers of covid-19 PPE (v4)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/886170/Guidance-for-businesses-high-volume-manufacture-of-ppe-version-4.pdf
- EU guidance on how to verify PPE can be used in the context of covid-19
<https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/41385?locale=en>
- CDC guidance on counterfeit respirators, N95 designation
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/usernotices/counterfeitResp.html>

I would stress that this does not necessarily mean the masks are not safe, but in view of the obligations imposed by the Health and Safety at Work (Jersey) Law 1989 (HSW Law), they are not considered suitable for use as PPE within a workplace as they cannot be shown to offer the minimum level of protection required to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health of those required to wear them to control risk.

In order to meet your legal duties under the HSW Law and the requirements of the Government Safe Exit Framework guidance available at www.gov.je, any mask not meeting the required industry standard must not be used and an equally effective alternative face mask should be used. I would confirm that where respiratory protective masks are identified as necessary for use, e.g. during aerosol generating procedures, face fit tests must be carried out.

I would confirm that an article has been published on the HSI website on this issue <https://www.gov.je/Government/Departments/JusticeHomeAffairs/HealthSafetyInspectorate/Updates/Pages/FaceMasksKN95.aspx>

A press release is also being sent out by the central GoJ communication unit.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Inspectorate on

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. D'Ulivo-Rogers', written in a cursive style.

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Health and Safety Inspector

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