

Non-compliant dust masks

Issued to: **Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors**

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Location: National and all routes

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Overview

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic our normal supply chain has been unable to fulfill the significantly increased demand for face masks FFP3 (dust protection) and FFP2 (COVID-19 protection). Alternative supplies were sourced with the correct certification from Europe and China. Certificates and test reports were checked before purchase, but we also requested independent testing by the British Standards Institute (BSI).

BSI informed us on the 19th June 2020 that the FFP3 and FFP2 safety masks we had requested for testing did not pass the dust and mist penetration tests. The masks were immediately quarantined by the Route Services Supply Chain team, and the Network Rail health and safety teams were informed.

The following four masks should NOT be used for activities where dust inhalation (e.g silica) is a risk:

0111/121006
0111/121033
0111/121005
0111/121030

Where these masks have been used for COVID-19 mitigation, there is no concern to health for the users. (Based on our supply chain feedback this is a large proportion of the supply).

We have shared the findings of our testing with the regulator for relaying to other organisations who may have brought the same non-compliant masks as respiratory protective equipment.

If staff have concerns that they have used one of the above masks for dust protection purposes, such as track staff working with ballast and works delivery staff drilling concrete, please inform your line manager and they will arrange an occupational health screening for you.

Route Services arranged testing with BSI for the latest supplies of FFP3 face masks and these have passed the dust and mist penetration tests required. The mask item number is 0111/121061 which you may order through istore with the assurance that it is fit for purpose. If this model is different to the ones you have used before, you will need to redo face fit testing.

Immediate action required

- Check the mask type you are using.
- Do not use the above four types of FFP2 and FFP3 face masks for dust protection.
- Quarantine any supplies of the non-conforming face masks to prevent inadvertent use.
- Remember that FFP3 face masks require you to have a face fit test for the specific model.