



Ways to Identify Fake PPE In Your Workplace

Members have been alerting us to counterfeit N95s in their facilities which visually look just like the common 3M teal-colored, cup-shaped N95 respirator model, 1860 and 1860S (small). 3M has several warning letters and resources published about these counterfeit masks which, upon first examination, appear real.

<https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/media/19347480/3m-counterfeit-communication-letter.pdf>

https://www.3m.com/3M/en_US/worker-health-safety-us/covid19/covid-fraud/

3M warns that not only are teal colored, cup-style fake 1860 masks being reported, but even duck-bill style Aura Healthcare Particulate Respirators and the 1870 surgical mask have been reported as counterfeit in many cases.

Here are some tips to determining if your 3M respirator is a counterfeit, based on what members have reported:

- N95 does not fit- is way too big or small.
- Chemical smell
- Printing on the N95 that is crooked or off center
- Lot numbers on the mask that do not match the lot numbers on the box
- Mask is small and thin; filter material (when mask is cut open) looks like paper towels
- Straps are stapled on irregularly
- Markings on box are missing information
- Box has a round Mylar seal on it marked PERU
- *While 3M lists suspect lot numbers on their website, note that it does not include all the lot numbers of the counterfeits we have found in use in some of our facilities.*

If you suspect that your respirator is counterfeit, here are immediate steps you can take:

1. Report to your manager and your Union Rep., and DO NOT USE IT.
2. Request a different respirator. If necessary, request a new fit test for an entirely different type of N95.
3. Document what you have. Take pictures of your faulty PPE.
4. If you used a poor fitting respirator to treat COVID 19 patients, document your exposure with your employer and the union.