

RPE and CFC

Nick Baxter

RPE

- RPE
 - Respiratory Protective Equipment
 - Used in the workplace to protect the **wearer**
 - Use is determined by a risk assessment
 - Further information can be found from HSE guidance such as HSG 53
 - Many different types – FFPs, PAPRs, BA
 - Level of protection determined by its APF



CFC

- CFC
 - Community Face Covering
 - Term introduced since start of the COVID 19 pandemic
 - Many other names causing confusion
 - Government advice as part of their rules and restrictions during the COVID 19 pandemic
 - Largely intended to protect **others**, **not the wearer**, against the spread of infection



Regulations

■ RPE

- HSW act – places the duty on the employer to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all employees
- ACoP – set out the regulations under specific topics such as COSHH, CAR or CLAW. These set out the preferred methods for compliance with the regulations.

■ CFC

- There are some public places where you must wear a face covering by law, unless you are exempt or have a reasonable excuse
- Premises where face coverings are required should take reasonable steps to promote compliance with the law
- The police can take measures if members of the public do not comply with this law

Regulations specific to RPE

- The law says that RPE used at work must be:
 - **Adequate** and provide the wearer with effective protection
 - **Suitable** for the intended use
 - **'CE'** marked or **'UKCA'** marked
 - Selected, used and maintained by trained people
 - Correctly stored

Adequate RPE

- RPE that is right for the hazard and reduces the exposure to the level required to protect the wearer's health
- Usually selected so the WEL is not exceeded in conjunction with the hierarchy of control
- There is no WEL for coronavirus
- WHO recommended N95 or equivalent as giving adequate protection against coronavirus for aerosol generating procedures (AGPs)
- It was a UK requirement for FFP3 (APF 20) in order to reduce exposure to infectious agents to ALARP.

Adequate RPE against coronavirus for AGPs

- These are all adequate but are they suitable or practical?



Suitability of RPE

- RPE that is right for the wearer, task and environment, such that the wearer can work freely and without additional risks due to the RPE
- Wearer
 - Fit testing, vision, breathing resistance
- Work task
 - Work rate, vision requirements, other PPE
- Work environment
 - Communication, temperature, space to move
- Minimum user impediment
 - Weight, heat burden, restricted mobility
- No additional risk
 - Trailing hoses, other alarms in working environment

Suitable RPE against coronavirus for AGPs

- These types are more suitable for use in AGPs and typically used



CE mark

- Demonstrates the PPE satisfies the basic health and safety requirements of the Regulation (EU) 2016/425 on personal protective equipment
- Particularly important during the COVID 19 pandemic
 - High numbers of fraudulent PPE
- EU Recommendation 2020/403
 - As the MSA, this recommendation makes HSE the authority who assess non-CE marked PPE and clear it for use
 - For healthcare workers for protection against COVID 19;
 - For the duration of the current crisis; and
 - On the basis that the PPE does not enter regular distribution channels.

CE mark

- Correct markings on product
- Correct documentation
- Instructions
 - In English
 - Storage, use, and cleaning – including any decontamination

