

3M Alert: Fraudulent/Counterfeit Product Offered Online

BEFORE PURCHASING 3M RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PRODUCTS ONLINE please take the time to ensure that you are purchasing authentic PPE. Counterfeit or copycat products may not provide the same protection as authentic 3M PPE.

Please be aware that there are an increasing number of non-3M respirators being featured in online marketplaces when searching for 3M respiratory protection products. These products may look almost identical to 3M respirators, filters or cartridges, but they are not 3M products. They often use 3M's exact product numbers, coloring, labels, etc. These respirators may in fact be counterfeit or copycat products.

- **Counterfeit** products are produced with the intent to deceive and mislead people into believing the items are genuine when they are not. These products are manufactured without authorization from the brand owner. They bear a brand such as 3M, but they are not authentic.
- **Copycat** products are manufactured to mimic the original brand product. They often use the same model numbers and colors as the original branded product, but they do not bear the brand name of the product they are copying.

Both counterfeit and copycat products are problematic for end-users that are expecting the same performance as the original brand product, but in fact they are using unknown processes and materials, with unknown or nonexistent quality controls. They are not tested and approved like authentic 3M brand products and may pose a significant risk to the user's health and safety.

Respiratory protection products approved by NIOSH are subject to performance standards which include specific sets of tests. These can include both physical tests as well as fit testing on human subjects to ensure the product performs to appropriate criteria for the specific respirator type. These tests are outlined in the Federal Register; 42 CFR 84. In other parts of the world there are similar performance standards that include regulatory testing requirements to gain approval such as GB in China and EN in Europe. For 3M respirator products, note that they are distributed and sold only in the regions in which that have been tested and approved to the appropriate regulatory standards. For reusable half and full-face respirators, the facepiece and the filter and/or cartridge components are tested and approved as a system. Therefore, it is important to ensure you have both a genuine facepiece and genuine filters/cartridges. Using non-approved components will invalidate the NIOSH approval and potentially put the user at risk of being exposed to the hazard they are trying to protect themselves from. The OSHA Respiratory Protection standard, 29 CFR 1910.134, states "The employer shall select a NIOSH-certified respirator." Using respirators, or components of respirators, that are not approved by NIOSH is in violation of OSHA regulations.

These tips can help ensure you purchase genuine 3M respiratory protection products:

- Please read the description carefully to ensure that it identifies 3M as the manufacturer.
- Descriptions for 3M products will be written with clear, grammatically correct language.
- For respirators in the US and Canada, please ensure that "NIOSH-approval" is claimed.
- Notice the price, often counterfeit and copycat products are priced significantly lower than products that are authentic 3M products.
- If you are purchasing from an online seller, you are more likely to receive an authentic product when buying directly from that seller, rather than a 3rd party seller that is using the platform.
- Always purchase 3M products through a 3M Authorized Distributor. When in doubt, you can contact a local 3M sales representative to help you locate a 3M authorized distributor
 - In the US: [US Sales Rep Locator](#)
 - In Canada: [Canada US Sales Rep Locator \(English\)](#) | [Canada US Sales Rep Locator \(French\)](#)

Please use the guidance below to help ensure that you are purchasing genuine 3M product.

P100 Filters

Counterfeit and copycat filters may have missing information on the abbreviated label (i.e., markings) that are required on NIOSH approved filters.

NIOSH approved P100 filters must indicate:

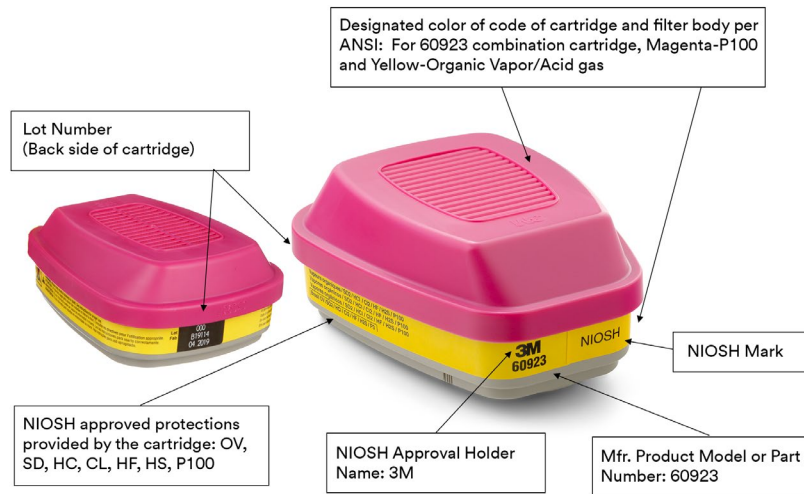
- The approval holder's name,
- Product model or trade name,
- Protection/filter series,
- Part number,
- The mark "NIOSH", and
- Lot number (location varies, typically located on filter and packaging).



Chemical Cartridges

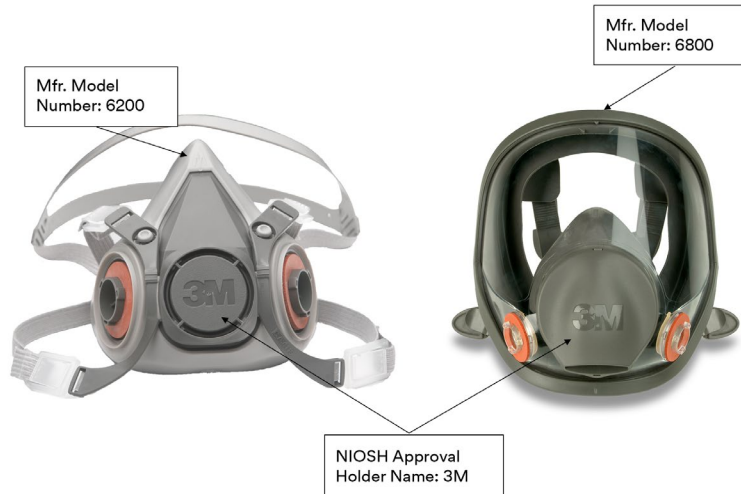
Counterfeit or copycat cartridges may have missing information on the abbreviated label (i.e., markings) that are required on NIOSH approved chemical cartridges. The label must indicate:

- The approval holder's name,
- Part number,
- The protections provided by the cartridge are listed with each protection identifier as shown on the cartridge label and separated by a forward slash,
- The mark "NIOSH,"
- A lot number or other production tracking identifier, and
- Color codes of cartridges for gases and vapors that meet the requirements of ANSI K13.1-1973 or ANSI Z88.7-2001.



Reusable Respirator Facepieces

Counterfeit or copycat facepieces may be missing product markings, such as the manufacturer's identification or model number (model number location can vary depending on respirator design).



You can also determine if a respirator manufacturer is approved by NIOSH by consulting NIOSH's Certified Equipment List (CEL): [CDC-NIOSH-NPPTL: Certified Equipment List Search](#)

If you have already purchased an authentic 3M reusable half or full-face respirator and want to purchase additional filters or cartridges, be aware of sellers that advertise their products "may be used with 3M facepieces" or "compatible with 3M facepieces" or "just like 3M." If they do not bear the 3M brand on the filter or cartridge, these are copycat products and are not NIOSH approved to be used with a 3M facepiece.

3M Personal Safety Division

For filters and cartridges that may bear the 3M brand, be aware that if the price is substantially lower, this is often a red flag and the product could be counterfeit. You have the highest assurance that you have received a genuine 3M product when you purchase from a 3M authorized distributor.

How to report counterfeit or copycat products?

NIOSH Reporting

Respirator users that encounter respirator filters and cartridges they believe may be a copycat or counterfeit can consult NIOSH's counterfeit respirator page where respirators that have been identified as counterfeit or misrepresented are listed. [Counterfeit Respirators | NPPTL | NIOSH | CDC](#)

Additionally, respirator users can report suspected fraudulent or misrepresented respirators via email to NIOSH at ppeconcerns@cdc.gov with the following details:

- Any manufacturer names present on the respirator
- Respirator model or part number
- Photos of the respirator and packaging
- NIOSH approval number (e.g., TC 84A-XXXX), if present
- Web URL where respirator was purchased or found

3M Reporting

Lastly, users that have purchased suspected counterfeit or copycat 3M respirators can report this to 3M by going to [3M.com/3MVerify](https://www.3m.com/3MVerify). We believe every customer seeking to purchase a 3M product should receive an authentic 3M product — each and every time.



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3M Center, Building 235-2W-70
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3M PSD products are occupational use only.

3M Canada
P.O. Box 5757
London, Ontario
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In United States of America
Technical Service 1-800-243-4630
Customer Service 1-800-328-1667
[3M.com/workersafety](https://www.3m.com/workersafety)

In Canada
Technical Service 1-800-267-4414
Customer Service 1-800-364-3577
[3M.ca/Safety](https://www.3m.ca/Safety)

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