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Technical Bulletin

November 2025

Counterfeit Awareness: 3M Powered Air Purifying Respirator

Introduction

BEFORE PURCHASING 3M RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PRODUCTS please take the time to ensure that you are purchasing authentic personal protective equipment (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 and components 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 that are approved 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 applicable standards for each region, for example NIOSH in USAC, 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. The headtop 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 head top and genuine filters/cartridges. Using non-approved components will invalidate the approval and potentially put the user at risk of being exposed to the hazard they are trying to protect themselves from.

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 respirator systems, please ensure that regional 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.

Counterfeit Guidance

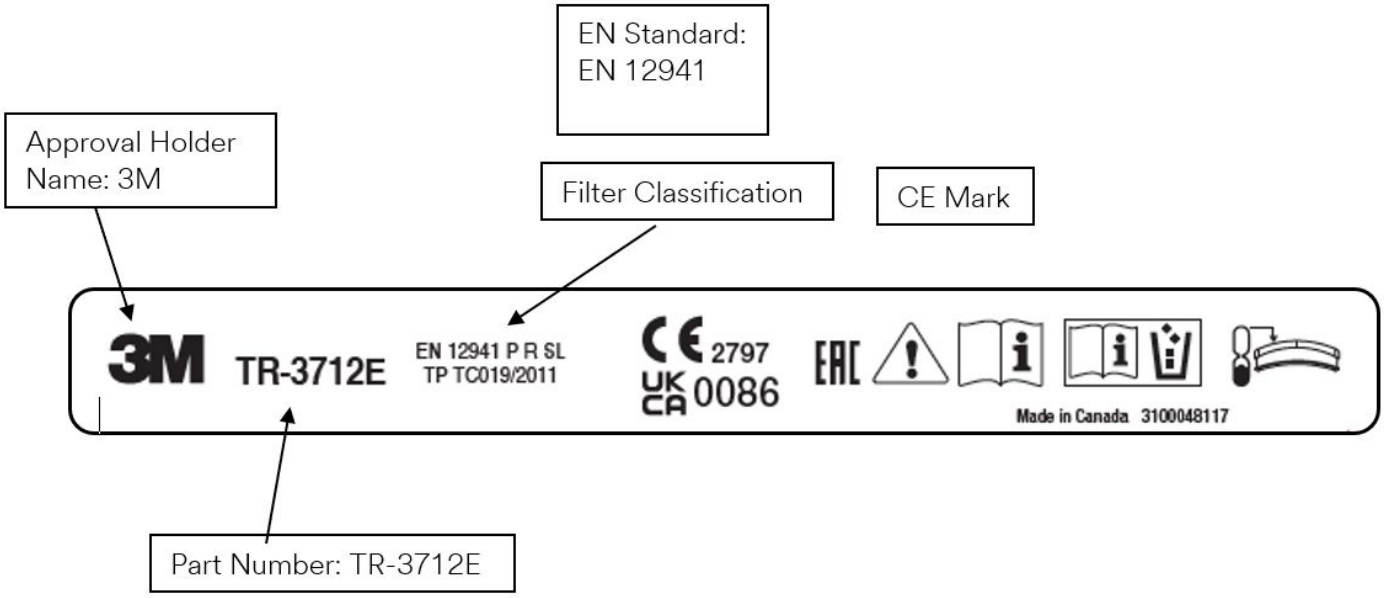
Please use the guidance below to help ensure that you are purchasing genuine 3M product.

3M™ Versaflo™ TR-300/TR-300+ Particulate Filters (CE)	
3M™ Versaflo™ TR-600/TR-800 Particulate Filters (CE)	

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

Approved filters must indicate:

- The approval holder's name
- Filter classification
- EN Standard
- Part number
- The mark "CE"
- Lot number and expiration date (located on filter, opposite from label)

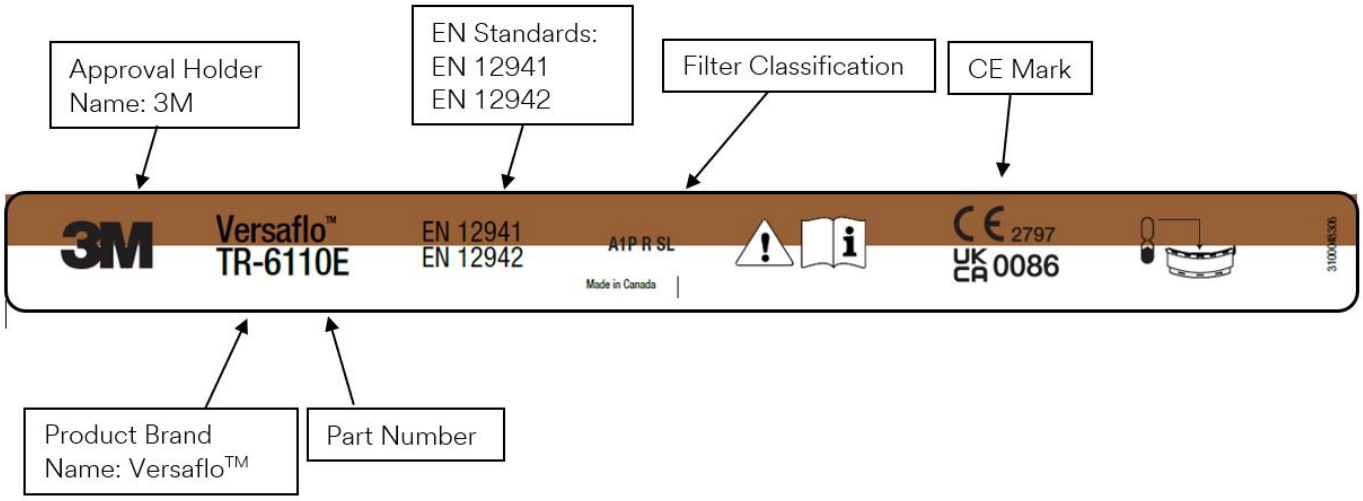


3M™ Versaflo™ TR-600/TR-800 Gas and Vapour Filters (CE)	

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

Approved filters must indicate:

- The approval holder's name
- Filter classification
- EN Standard
- Part number
- The mark "CE"
- Lot number and expiration date (located on filter, opposite from label)



3M™ Versaflo™ S-Series Hoods (CE)

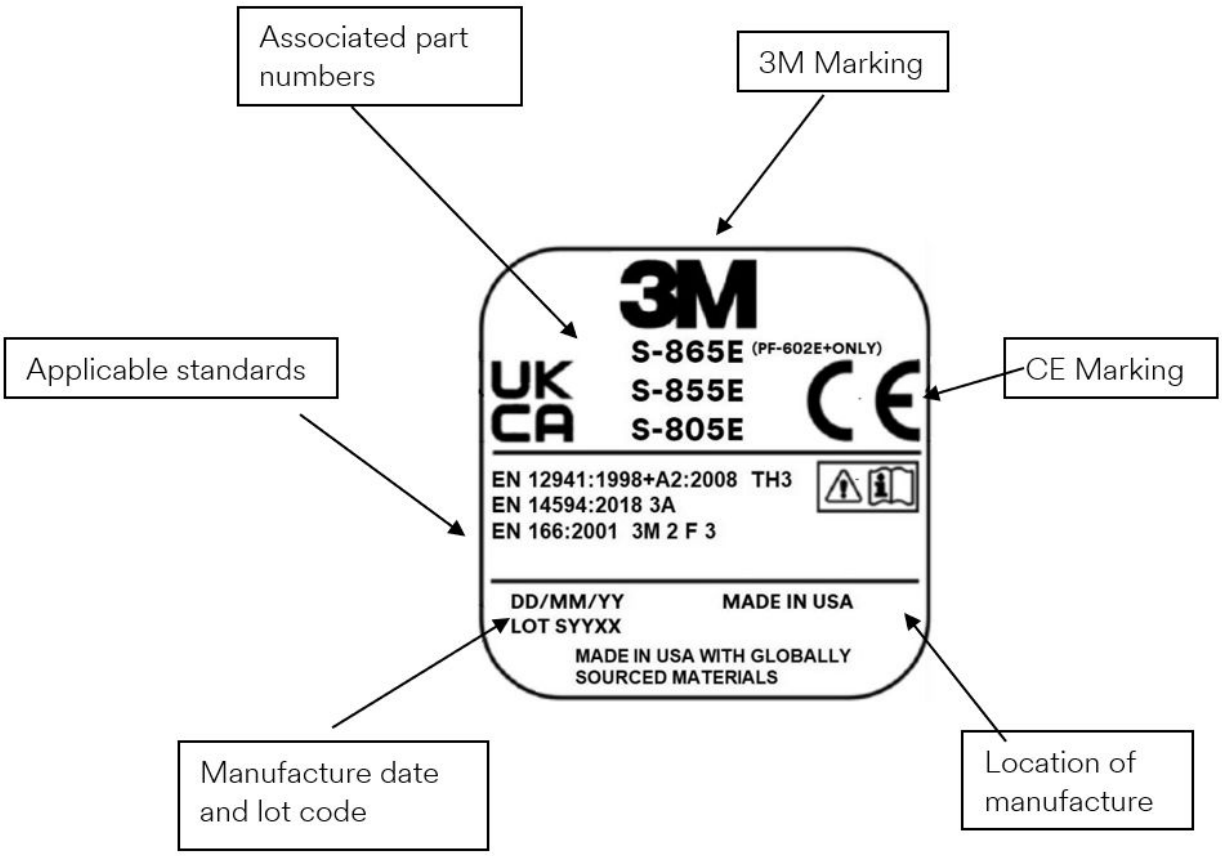
Integrated Suspension Hoods: **S-133S/L, S-333SG, S-333LG, S-433S/L, S-533S/L**

Premium Suspension Hoods: **S-605, S-607, S-707, S-805E**

Counterfeit hoods may have missing information on the abbreviated sticker label (i.e., markings).

Approved S-Series hood labels should be a sticker on the inside of the hood and indicate:

- 3M Marking
- Associated part numbers
- Applicable standards
- Location of manufacture
- Manufacture date and lot code
- The mark "CE"



How to report counterfeit or copycat products?

3M Reporting

Users that have purchased suspected counterfeit or copycat 3M respirators can report this to 3M by going to 3M.co.uk/verify. We believe every customer seeking to purchase a 3M product should receive an authentic 3M product— each and every time.

Personal Safety Division
3M EMEA
3M Centre, Cain Road
Bracknell, UK. RG12 8HT

3M PSD products are occupational useonly.

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Please recycle.