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October 10, 2025

Dear Valued 3M Channel Partner,

3M has recently been made aware of an increasing number of counterfeit and copycat respiratory and hearing protection products in addition to disposable respirators, entering the market. After carefully examining the counterfeit samples received to date, 3M has verified that the products are not genuine 3M products, despite bearing the 3M brand and markings. Additionally, 3M has also identified an increasing number of copycat products that look very similar to 3M respiratory products, but do not bear the 3M brand or markings. Importantly, both counterfeit and copycat products do not meet the necessary regulatory requirements and may not provide adequate protection against industrial hazards. Notably, these counterfeit and copycat products are often offered at significantly lower prices.

Personal protective equipment ("PPE") placed on the market in Europe must comply with the requirements set out in Regulation (EU) 2016/425 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulation"). This Regulation specifies that all economic operators, including manufacturers, distributors, and importers, are responsible for ensuring that PPE complies with the requirements of the Regulation according to their role in the supply chain. This is to ensure a high level of protection for public interests, such as health, safety, and user protection. It is crucial for all parties involved to remain vigilant against counterfeit products and to uphold their responsibilities under the Regulation.

We would like to emphasize that products which are not genuine 3M products may not meet the requirements set by the PPE Regulation when used in combination with 3M products. Such combinations are not CE marked or approved, and therefore, may not provide the intended level of protection and may pose a risk to the health or even life of the users. By ensuring that you distribute only genuine 3M products, you help guarantee that your customers receive products that comply with applicable regulations, thereby protecting employees from potential health and safety risks. As an official 3M Distributor, you are expected to be good stewards of the 3M brand. This includes complying with all applicable legal requirements and refraining from any activities that could negatively impact your brand or the 3M brand.

Please be reminded that 3M expects its official 3M Distributors to purchase and resell only authentic 3M products.

3M takes these matters very seriously and will conduct investigations as necessary. 3M expects its distributors to cooperate with 3M's investigations and disclose sources of unverified product so appropriate investigations can take place to help stop counterfeit product distribution. As a 3M distributor, your full cooperation with these investigations is expected.

If you suspect that you have purchased any counterfeit products, if you receive any offers of counterfeit products, or suspect that products may be counterfeit, you must immediately report the matter via 3M.com/3Mverify.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your local 3M representative.

Thank you for your support and partnership to combat fraud and counterfeit in the marketplace.

Regards,

Laura Galli

Vice President, EMEA. 3M Personal Safety Division.