



SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN



RESPIRATORS: COUNTERFEIT P100 FILTERS

NIOSH sent a notice regarding counterfeit P100 respirator filters, saying, “NIOSH has identified many filters being sold on well-known online marketplaces claiming to be P100 filters that are not part of a NIOSH Approved respirator configuration.” This notice is just the latest produced by NIOSH about the proliferation of counterfeit respirators and respirator filters. [NIOSH](#) posts information about misrepresented and counterfeit respirators to alert users, purchasers, and manufacturers.

NIOSH-approved respirators have a testing and certification (TC) approval number (e.g., TC 84A-XXXX). The NIOSH approval label, which you can find on or within the respirator packaging, includes the TC approval number. Purchasers can verify a TC approval number is valid by checking the [NIOSH Certified Equipment List](#).

NIOSH offers the following tips to spot counterfeit respirators or respirator filters:

- No markings at all on the filtering facepiece respirator
- No approval (TC) number on filtering facepiece respirator or headband
- No NIOSH markings
- NIOSH spelled incorrectly
- Presence of decorative fabric or other decorative add-ons (e.g., sequins)
- Claims approval for children (NIOSH does not approve respiratory protective devices for children at this time)
- Filtering facepiece respirators having ear loops instead of headbands. Currently, NIOSH has not approved respirators that use ear loops without an approved fastener.

The notice gives the following examples of counterfeit P100 half- and quarter-face respirator filters:



Agencies should inspect their current respirators for signs of not being NIOSH-approved, and verify future purchases by buying from reputable sources.

NIOSH also makes the following resources available for identifying counterfeits:

[NIOSH Certified Equipment List](#)

[How to Tell If Your N95 Respirator is NIOSH-Approved Factsheet](#)

[How to Tell If Your N95 Respirator is NIOSH-Approved Video](#)

[National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory Tipsheet](#)