



CE MARKINGS NO GUARANTEE OF SAFETY

Lee Pickering, Head of Sector – Manufacturing at Arco discusses the unseen risks for your business

Although we enjoy the benefits of working in one of the safest places in the world, with the lowest incident rates of work related deaths in the EU, there's a gap in the compliance process that is putting UK workers at risk of injury, even though they are using CE-marked PPE they believe will protect them.

As a health and safety manager, you may believe that you and your people are fully protected and compliant when you specify or buy PPE. The reality is that some CE marked PPE is failing, putting wearers at risk of injury and businesses and individuals at risk of loss of reputation, fines and even possible imprisonment.

The evidence is undeniable, particularly in the area of a number of CE marked safety footwear and gloves that are freely available on the market. Independent laboratory testing in 2017 showed that around 40% of non-metallic footwear and 30% of rigger gloves failed surveillance testing, despite carrying the CE mark.

With around 600,000 workers each year reporting that they have suffered an injury at work, the consequences of failing to apply due diligence to PPE purchasing are huge. Without a robust process in place, accidents and injuries could be life changing and not just for end users but for the individuals (and the businesses they work for) who are involved in specifying and purchasing the equipment.

If you are concerned about the risks of failing CE marked PPE leaving you and your business exposed, [click here](#) to watch a short film about this important issue. CE markings do not guarantee compliance and as an employer or health and safety manager, you have an obligation to ensure that whatever you buy is compliant.

ENDS

About Arco

Arco is the UK's leading safety company and has a core purpose of keeping people safe at work. Through its dedicated in house experts, Arco helps to shape the safety world in order to ensure UK workers go home safe every night. It distributes a world-class range of over 170,000 quality assured, branded and own brand products, including personal protective equipment, workwear, safety footwear, gloves, workplace safety and hygiene products. It also provides professional services encompassing training, consultancy and site services.

Headquartered in Hull, Arco reaches its customers through its extensive product catalogue, interactive website and 47 strong retail store

network. The company has sales of over £287m and employs approximately 1600 people nationwide.

Arco is committed to providing safety equipment that is genuine and compliant with relevant standards and regulations. To do this, it has a five step product assurance process and is the only safety distributor with an independently accredited testing laboratory. Additionally, it is a member of the BSIF Registered Safety Suppliers Scheme.

Founded in 1884 and with a heritage spanning four generations, Arco demonstrates traditional family values and is dedicated to its Corporate Social Responsibility policy. It continually demonstrates its support of local business communities and charitable organisations, donating in excess of 1% of pre tax profits annually. In 2007, Arco became a member of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) incorporating their internationally recognised code of labour practice into its own ethical policy and in 2010 became a member of Sedex, the Supplier Ethical Data Exchange. To ensure ethical standards are continuously met throughout its supply chain, Arco carries out regular audits amongst all suppliers and, working with the ETI and other regulatory bodies, the company plays a leading role in helping to eliminate modern day slavery across the globe. For more information, visit www.arco.co.uk.