



Subject: The Hidden Risk of a False Sense of Protection

Respirators and cartridges are expected to provide reliable protection for defined periods of time in hazardous working conditions.

Counterfeit respiratory products may not fail immediately or visibly. Instead, they can create a false sense of security, leading workers to remain in hazardous environments longer than is safe.

Independent laboratory evaluations found that all tested counterfeit chemical and combination cartridges failed service life requirements, with some experiencing chemical breakthrough in less than five minutes. Genuine products tested under the same conditions consistently met required safety thresholds.

When protection fails without warning, exposure may occur before workers recognize the danger.

To avoid unseen exposure risks:

- Ensure respirators and cartridges are approved, complete configurations
- Verify correct packaging, labeling, and certification markings
- Be cautious of unusually low-priced offers, especially online

Real products mean real protection.

Best regards,

Medent Safety

Learn more at:

- 3M.com/genuineppe
- Independent research: NIOSH / NPPTL – *Performance Testing of Fraudulent Respirator P100 Filters, Organic Vapor Chemical Cartridges, and Combination Cartridges* (September 2025)
[https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/media/pdfs/2025/09/NPPTL_CaseReport_P2025_0101.pdf]
- www.medentsafety.com