

Reusable – Technical Definitions

EN Standard: Technical documents agreed by experts from EU member states stating minimum performance requirements and testing methods for a given type of PPE.

Approval (CE mark): Is a symbol printed on the product/packaging which informs the market that the product meets the essential requirements of the European directives relating to PPE. It could be described as a 'passport' to sell products within the EU. It is not a quality mark.

Type & Class: A symbol which denotes the type of device and the level of protection afforded. **e.g. A2P2** – gas/vapour & particulate filter for organic vapours & particulates Class 2, level of performance.

Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL): OELs are expressed either as Occupational Exposure Standards (OES) or Maximum Exposure Limits (MEL).

OESs are the level for each substance for which the majority of employees may be exposed for eight hours a day, five days a week, without adverse health effects.

MELs are set for substances which may cause the most serious health effects, such as cancer and occupational asthma, for which 'safe' levels of exposure cannot be determined. MELs should never be exceeded, and exposure should be reduced as far below the MEL as is reasonably practicable.

Measured in milligrams per cubic metre (mg/m^3) for particulates and parts per million (ppm) for gases and vapours.