



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Testing and Certification Services from BSI



Your partner
in progress

Why PPE compliance matters

PPE protects people from physical, chemical, and biological dangers. But meeting global rules and requirements can feel complicated.

As a manufacturer, you must show that your products meet national, European, or international standards.

We guide you through this process so you can meet global legal and market requirements with confidence.

Classification of PPE Equipment under EU Regulation

(based on risk against which it's intended to protect):

Category I

Minimal risks

Simple PPE for low-level hazards. The manufacturer assesses the risk and self-certifies the product.

Category 2

Intermediate risks

Products that do not fall into Category I or III. A Notified Body (NB) must complete a CE/UKCA type examination.

Category 3

Serious or fatal risks

Complex PPE that protects against life-threatening dangers. Requires a CE/UKCA type examination and regular ongoing checks by an accredited NB.



BSI is your partner from idea to impact

We support you from early design through to market success

BSI combines deep expertise, accredited testing and certification services, and NB status for PPE. We can therefore help you prove performance, access key global markets, and build lasting customer confidence.

Evidence you can rely on.

Our accredited testing and globally recognized certification give you confidence in your product and our services.

Global market access, simplified.

We support CE marking for the EU and other global market requirements, helping you confidently navigate complex regulatory pathways.

One partner, end-to-end.

Our solutions are designed to keep your projects moving forward. They include early design insight and pre-assessment to gap analysis, type testing, certification, and ongoing surveillance.



Access a comprehensive suite of services for all stages of your product lifecycle

Certifications



BSI Kitemark™

Give your customers confidence that they're choosing products proven to go beyond industry standards. You also have a competitive advantage with this exclusive certification from BSI.



CE marking (EU)

Most PPE sold in the EU must carry the CE mark. This shows the product meets EU PPE Regulation 2016/425. We test and certify your products so you can apply the CE mark.



UKCA marking (UK)

UKCA marking applies to products placed on the market in Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales). We are CE 2797 and UKCA 0086 Approved.



Benchmark

We are a JAS-ANZ accredited Conformity Assessment Body. We offer Benchmark certification to Australian standards for PPE placed on the Australian and New Zealand markets.

Product testing

We are known worldwide as an independent testing body. We test products to international, national, and industry standards. If you need custom technical specifications for testing, we can also help create them.

More details about our PPE testing portfolio available to you on the following page.

Advisory services

- **Preassessment:** Early testing against parts of a standard to show how likely you are to achieve full compliance. This helps you reduce risk and improve designs sooner.
- **Gap analysis:** A review that compares your current product or process with the requirements of a standard or regulation. You get clear actions to close any gaps.

Our PPE portfolio

For certain products, you may be able to achieve a Kitemark certification – the team will be able to advise on this.



Facial protection

Hearing protection

BSI can test and certify a wide range of hearing protection, including various earmuff and earplug designs. We hold NB status under the PPE and Low Voltage Directives – relevant to this type of equipment. Typical evaluations include:

- Physical integrity,
- Active and passive attenuation,
- Insertion loss.

Eye protection

Eye protection is often integrated with head protection to protect from potential dangers, including:

- Impacts,
- Sparks,
- Molten metal,
- Electrical arcs.

From safety glasses and goggles to visors and welding, your eye protection testing needs are covered with BSI.

Respiratory protective equipment (RPE)

All RPE must be examined by a NB before it can receive CE/UKCA marking. We test devices that protect against hazards such as dust, gases, and low oxygen levels. If your RPE includes helmets, eyewear, hearing protection, or electronics, we can test and certify everything together. Kitemark certification is also available for products that qualify.

Hand and foot protection

Gloves

We test gloves and hand protection designed to protect against:

- Chemicals,
- Heat and fire,
- Cold,
- Mechanical risk
- Electrical current.

This includes multi-hazard gloves with additional protection against upper-hand impact, high-visibility strips, and watertight anti-slip capacity, such as firefighter gloves.

Protective footwear

For footwear in PPE category III risk categories, we

- Carry out an initial assessment,
- Provide **ongoing annual surveillance** to confirm continued compliance.

We certify **safety footwear, occupational footwear, and firefighter footwear**, with **Kitemark** and **Benchmark certification** available for qualifying ranges.

Impact protection

Sports helmets

Safe and secure sporting equipment is paramount to the consumer or wearer. We work with manufacturers for sporting goods, across a diverse range of sports, including;

- Cycling,
- Rugby,
- Cricket,
- Motorsport,
- Equestrian.

Typical tests include **impact absorption, retention system strength/effectiveness, penetration resistance, lateral crush (equestrian), and flammability (motorsport).**

Industrial and vehicle user helmets

We test basic impact helmets and advanced models with integrated respiratory and communication systems to help you achieve compliance in your target markets.

Kitemark certification is available for qualifying vehicle user helmets.

Body armour and impact protection

We test:

- Knee and elbow protection (motorcycling and sport),
- Gaiters,
- Protective footwear,
- Rugby apparel,
- Cricket boxes,
- Football shin guards.

We can also test for other impact protection, like playground surfacing.

Protective workwear and fall protection

High-visibility clothing

The standard for high visibility is BS EN ISO 20471:2013 +A1:2016. We test both fabric and garment performance, including colour visibility, brightness, durability, and fit. Multi-risk garments (such as flame-retardant high-visibility clothing) must be certified for each type of danger.

Kitemark certification is available for qualifying products.

Protective clothing

From extreme-temperature and chemical-resistant garments to splash-proof aprons, we can test many products offering suit protection. Kitemark certification is available for qualifying products.

Fall arrest equipment

We can also support with certification testing for:

- Descender devices,
- Full body harnesses,
- Work positioning belts,
- Body harnesses,
- Work positioning belts,
- And more.

Did you know?



The British Equestrian Federation and The Pony Club will only allow riders to take part in events if their helmets are Kitemark-certified – ensuring riders are as safe as possible when competing.

The BSI Kitemark certification journey

We make the process transparent and efficient for you with a focus on results that build trust.



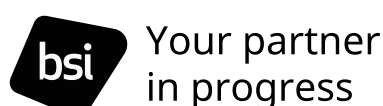
A partnership built on progress

Whether you need formal certification, custom test method development, or project management for specialist outsourced testing, we can support.

We help you move faster, reduce risk, and build trust – every step of the way.

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How to get started

- **Discuss your PPE project with us:** We'll map the best testing and certification route.
- **Plan a pre assessment or gap analysis:** Reduce risk and rework before full testing.
- **Explore the BSI Kitemark™:** Differentiate your products with a mark that buyers trust.

Contact your local BSI team at:

Email: product.certification@bsigroup.com

Call: +44 345 0765 606

We'll connect you to the right experts for your market and product category.