

PPE Certification in Russia

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The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Certification System has been created in Russia to conduct PPE certification testing. The System includes the Gosstandart of Russia, the Central Certification Body for PPE (VNIIS), 5 Certification Bodies and 10 Testing Laboratories. Their task is to certify different PPE types, including respirators. Recently the Test Centre iZS PPEi (Erkrat, Germany) has been included in this system. It was accredited by the Gosstandart of Russia, which gave "ZS PPE" the rights to conduct PPE certification tests for Russia Standards compliance.

The Test Centre "ZS PPE" conducts the certification tests of PPE (Personal equipment for protection against falls; equipment for arm and hand protection; equipment for foot protection; head protective equipment; protective clothing), exported to Russia.

The Certification Body VNIIS issues the GOST R Certificates based on "ZS PPE" Test Reports.

PPE Certification is issued according to the rules of the GOST R Certification System considering peculiarities of each product design and intended use.

Technical committee TC 320 "PPE" (VNIIS) carries out the main work for PPE Standardization. There is a library of normative documents including 122 national standards for use by the PPE Certification System in Russia. In these standards, requirement for the competitive production as well as test methods are provided for all PPE classes. At present, the Technical Committee 320 "Personal protective equipment" formed within VNIIS and its 9 subcommittees are responsible for the main work concerning PPE certification.

The main task of TC 320 "ZS PPE" is to harmonize the requirements of Russian and European standards according to Directive 89/686/EEC. The requirements laid down in Russian standards, common for different PPE classes and types which characterizes their design and functional peculiarities are analogous in general to the requirements specified in the EEC Directive. During the revision of the present standards and the development of new Russian PPE standards, the requirements specified in the EEC Directive, which are currently lacking, will be included.

It should also be noted that the working conditions and climatic peculiarities in Russia are different from those in Europe which may result in different and stricter PPE requirements. This is the reason for comparative testing of PPE in either the European or Russian Test Laboratories to assure harmonization of requirements.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite members of the International Society for Respiratory Protection to contact VNIIS of the Gosstandart of Russia, with all questions and inquiries regarding PPE Certification and Standardization in Russia.

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