

The Problem with Chinese Face Masks

Are face masks made in China safe?

During the past 45 days, there have been hundreds of headlines around Europe like this:

"Europe halts delivery of 10 million 'poor quality' Chinese masks"

Like other industries, China certainly has some experienced, responsible producers of face masks. But the number of unprofessional, inexperienced factories making potentially harmful masks has exploded. The South China Morning Post reported on April 17 that within the first three months of 2020, 38,000 new companies in China have registered to make or trade face masks. In all of 2019, there were 8,594 new companies.

Business Insider reported:

"China is experiencing a mask-making boom due to the novel coronavirus. But quality control has been an issue, and scammers have been using the chaos to rip off would-be overseas purchasers."

China's boom isn't just for masks, but they make up a big part of it since they are an easy commodity to make – they can be produced quickly, and factories can turn a profit after two weeks' production, according to the South China Morning Post. This led to factories that make

things like golf balls, vape pens, or car parts to turn to mask production for now.

David Sun, who runs a logistics company in Yiwu, but used his export license to trade medical supplies during the pandemic, told the South China Morning Post: "mask machines are like cash printers" and "many factories are manufacturing while waiting for a production license."

So, before you place your order with some random importer or trader, research the details on where the product originated, and how dependable the manufacturer is. This is after all, a safety product designed to protect, and not a pen or a coffee mug.

All of our masks at Lynka are manufactured in Europe or imported from safe, proven and certified manufacturers in the Far East, such as Regatta brand medical grade face masks.

Other recent headlines regarding Chinese face masks in Europe

„Europa halts delivery of 10 million 'poor quality' Chinese masks"	May 14, 2020
„Masks from China to the Trash bin" (Polnad)	April 30, 2020
„China seizes over 89 million shoddy face masks"	April 26, 2020
„Founder of mask inspection company calls it "The Wild West" "	April 21, 2020
„Coronavirus: Denmark scraps million of inferior face masks"	April 20, 2020
„China Delays Mask and Ventilator Exports After Quality Complaints"	April 11, 2020
„Netherlands recalls 600,000 face masks from China due to low quality"	April 1, 2020

Source: Business Insider

Europe halts delivery of 10 million 'poor quality' Chinese masks

European Commission says legal action would be taken if needed after Poland and the Netherlands complain about quality.

14 May 2020



European Commissioner in charge of Health Stella Kyriakides wearing mask, before a news conference on the strategic orientations of the European Tourism and Transport Package at European Commission in Brussels, Belgium (Dimitris Houlis/EPH-EFE)

The European Commission said on Thursday it has suspended the delivery of 10 million Chinese masks to member states and the United Kingdom after two countries complained about the poor quality of the batches they received.

As part of its efforts to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, this month the European Union's executive arm started dispatching the masks to healthcare workers.

After the first batch of 1.5 million masks was shipped to 17 of the 27 member states and the UK, Poland's Health Minister Lukasz Szumowski said the 600,000 items Polish authorities received did not have European certificates and failed to comply with the medical standards required for their distribution.

"We have decided to suspend future deliveries of these masks," Commission health spokesman Stefan De Keersmaecker said.

"We will then see what action needs to be taken if there is indeed a quality problem with these masks."

According to De Keersmaecker, another member state, the Netherlands, has identified similar problems so far.

The whole stock of masks was purchased from a Chinese provider via an EU fund. It was set to be distributed in weekly instalments over six weeks. De Keersmaecker insisted that the Commission scrupulously followed all control measures when it bought the masks, and verified they were usable.

"If necessary we will of course take any necessary legal action," De Keersmaecker said.

He added that the commissioner for health and food safety, Stella Kyriakides, has alerted all the countries which have already received masks about the potential problems and asked them to provide feedback on their quality.

"It is of utmost importance that personal protective equipment sent out by the Commission is of very high quality," De Keersmaecker said.

"That's fundamental because that equipment is used by citizens and by professionals in the health sector."

Source: Al Jazeera

China is experiencing a mask-making boom due to the novel coronavirus. But quality control has been an issue, and scammers have been using the chaos to rip off would-be overseas purchasers.

The South China Morning Post reported on April 17 that since the beginning of the year 38,000 new companies in China have registered to make or trade face masks. In all of 2019, there were 8,594 new companies.

"We are slap bang in the middle of a gold rush for the year's most sought-after commodities – masks, gloves, thermometers, ventilators, hospital beds, testing kits, hazmat suits, hand sanitizer and goggles – and according to those involved in the scramble, there are no holds barred," the South China Morning Post reported.

Globally, there has been a shortage of masks, which are pieces of necessary personal protective equipment that prevent the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. They're particularly important for keeping healthcare workers safe.

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The price of basic surgical masks had increased from about 30 cents to 70 cents.

The deluge of new companies, and the wild-west way of operating, has led to problems with quality. In late March, the Netherlands recalled 600,000 coronavirus face masks it imported from China after discovering they were faulty, Business Insider previously reported.

China is experiencing a gold rush for surgical masks — more than 38,000 companies registered in 2020 to make or trade face masks. But mask quality and scams are now issues.

James Peckley for INSIDER



- China is currently experiencing a boom of production for medical equipment, in particular masks. The price of basic surgical masks has increased from about 30 cents to 70 cents since the pandemic began.
- Since the beginning of 2020, 38,000 new companies in China have registered to make or trade face masks. In all of 2019, there were 8,594 new companies.
- But with more supply and demand, the quality of China's exported masks has proven to be an issue, and scams have taken off, costing several individuals millions of dollars.
- In a report from the South China Morning Post on April 17, the mask supply and demand boom was called a "wild feeding frenzy," while the founder of a mask inspection company called it "the Wild West."