

HIGHLIGHTS: Joint TIC Council and EUIPO Webinar - ‘Non-conform imported PPEs, with medical devices and fake certificates’

On 28th May, TIC Council hosted a joint webinar together with European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) on ‘Non-conform imported PPEs, with medical devices and fake certificates.’

The webinar was led by the TIC Council’s Anti-Counterfeiting Committee to work towards halting the worldwide proliferation of products bearing counterfeit certification marks that have been endangering public health and safety measures in fighting the spread of COVID-19. In addition, these rapidly emerging cases of conformity assessment certification fraud is of extreme threat to the validity and integrity of the TIC Industry.

High-level panellists representing European institutional and law enforcement agencies consisting of EUIPO, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and Europol provided participants insights into the current status of the problem, coordinated actions and operations undertaken to fight the spread of rogue operators. Furthermore, representative members from TIC Council provided practical case studies of circulating counterfeit certificates to give tips on how to depict the methods and formats used by criminals to break into the PPE industry market. The main role of this webinar was to alert the relevant stakeholders and share good practices and useful information that could help in the identification of fake certificates and non-conform equipment. The panellists included:

Blanca Arteché,

Head of Enforcement and SME Service, European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights, EUIPO

Marta Castillo González,

Head of Sector, Tobacco & Counterfeit goods Unit B.2., European Antifraud Office (OLAF)

Sergio Tirro,

Team Leader of the IPC3, EUROPOL

Q VanBenschoten,

Vice President, Compliance & Risk – Americas, Intertek

William Davies,

Brand Protection Manager EMEA, Global Security & Brand Protection, UL

Joachim Max Krasselt,

Director Incident Management, TÜV SÜD Product Service GmbH

Katharina Seidel,

Manager Trademark Surveillance - Business Division Products, TÜV Rheinland
LGA Products GmbH

Marco Schirr,

Head Technical Service Management Certification, DEKRA

In summary, a total of 273 participants representing TIC Council member organisations and institutional agencies attended this valuable webinar to understand how a cooperative multi-agency approach is vital in distinguishing counterfeit goods from genuine goods. While the world is fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential to support and work together with the law enforcement authorities and to help raise awareness among buyers from industries, municipalities or public institutions of this rapidly emerging fraud trends related to procurement of PPE and medical devices and the dangers these can pose.

As TIC Council Continues to provide thought-provoking presentations on current market trends and needs, watch this space for the [list of upcoming webinars](#).

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TIC Council is a global association representing over 90 international independent third-party testing, inspection, certification and verification organizations. The industry represents an estimated one million employees across the world with annual sales of approximately USD 200 billion.