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**For the attention of all Primary Care
Independent Contractors and Practices**

17 December 2020

Dear all,

Non-CE marked Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

During the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic when PPE supply chains were at risk, the European Commission issued an easement to relevant rules with the effect that non-CE marked PPE could be purchased and used subject to their approval by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

A decision has now been taken to end this 'easement', with the following effects:

- after 31 December 2020, it will no longer be possible to purchase non-CE marked PPE and use it based on HSE approval.
- any non-CE marked PPE which has been approved by the HSE under the easement process and which is purchased on or before 31 December 2020 can still be used after this date, up until the stock expiry date set at the time of the HSE assessment. However, we recommend that in placing orders for the future you seek to acquire only CE marked PPE.

If there are any specific issues arising from this decision, such as imports already in train and scheduled to arrive after 31 December 2020, the Scottish Government's PPE Division would like to know about this, and will, with NHS Boards, consider ways of addressing these issues.

You can contact the Scottish Government's PPE Division at Emma.Nycz@gov.scot

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