



# OFFICE of PRIVATE SECTOR

LIAISON INFORMATION REPORT (LIR)



## HEALTHCARE & PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR

22 April 2020

LIR 200422004

### Individual(s) Targeting Hospital Staff to Solicit the Sale of COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with a Fake Certification Letter in an Email

The FBI's Office of Private Sector (OPS) prepared this LIR to inform healthcare and PPE<sup>a</sup> supply chain industries of an identified scheme where individual(s) are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic and PPE procurement process. The individual(s) target a hospital's PPE procurement agent(s) after learning their identities in social media and/or an online forum. The scheme involves an email soliciting the sales of PPE and containing a fake certification letter. The certification illustrates the PPE has been properly tested. Some of the certifications appear to have been falsified with logos and templates likely available online. To import a product into the United States, an importer and manufacturer needs to ensure the PPE conforms to U.S. PPE regulations and the certification must accompany the goods.

- According to the European Safety Federation's COVID website, as of March 2020, the European Union has reported a variety of false or fake certifications.

The FBI encourages you to report any related suspicious activity to your corporate security office, local FBI office, and/or the appropriate regulatory body your organization trusts. The following are some best practices to identify such solicitation activities; however, these should be observed in context and not individually:

- Refrain from posting healthcare procurement agents' contact information publicly;
- Verify offers with your trusted vendor and/or supply chain databases;
- Validate PPE-specific certifications with the appropriate PPE regulatory authority; and,
- Remain vigilant of non-traditional communications for sales and negotiations from unsolicited vendors.

This LIR was disseminated from OPS's Information Sharing and Analysis Unit. Direct any requests and questions to your FBI Private Sector Coordinator at your [local FBI Field Office](#):  
<https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices>

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<sup>a</sup> Personal Protective Equipment is defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as, "specialized clothing or equipment, worn by an employee for protection against infectious materials." The CDC has identified gowns, gloves, goggles or full-face shields, and N95 respirator masks as required PPE for COVID-19.



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## Traffic Light Protocol (TLP) Definitions

Color	When should it be used?	How may it be shared?
<p><b>TLP:RED</b></p>  <p>Not for disclosure, restricted to participants only.</p>	<p>Sources may use TLP:RED when information cannot be effectively acted upon by additional parties, and could lead to impacts on a party's privacy, reputation, or operations if misused.</p>	<p>Recipients may not share TLP:RED information with any parties outside of the specific exchange, meeting, or conversation in which it was originally disclosed. In the context of a meeting, for example, TLP:RED information is limited to those present at the meeting. In most circumstances, TLP:RED should be exchanged verbally or in person.</p>
<p><b>TLP:AMBER</b></p>  <p>Limited disclosure, restricted to participants' organizations.</p>	<p>Sources may use TLP:AMBER when information requires support to be effectively acted upon, yet carries risks to privacy, reputation, or operations if shared outside of the organizations involved.</p>	<p>Recipients may only share TLP:AMBER information with members of their own organization, and with clients or customers who need to know the information to protect themselves or prevent further harm. <b>Sources are at liberty to specify additional intended limits of the sharing: these must be adhered to.</b></p>
<p><b>TLP:GREEN</b></p>  <p>Limited disclosure, restricted to the community.</p>	<p>Sources may use TLP:GREEN when information is useful for the awareness of all participating organizations as well as with peers within the broader community or sector.</p>	<p>Recipients may share TLP:GREEN information with peers and partner organizations within their sector or community, but not via publicly accessible channels. Information in this category can be circulated widely within a particular community. TLP:GREEN information may not be released outside of the community.</p>
<p><b>TLP:WHITE</b></p>  <p>Disclosure is not limited.</p>	<p>Sources may use TLP:WHITE when information carries minimal or no foreseeable risk of misuse, in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release.</p>	<p>Subject to standard copyright rules, TLP:WHITE information may be distributed without restriction.</p>