

Cologne, June 29, 2018

PPE-Regulation 2016/425

Associations of manufacturers give an overview of the transitional provision

The Regulation 2016/425 on personal protective equipment (PPE Regulation) has been in effect since 21 April 2018. Article 47 (1) of the new Regulation foresees a one-year transition period. This transitional provision, in accordance with the legal opinion of the European Commission and the German market surveillance authorities, reads as follows:

1. Every PPE manufacturer can place their PPE products on the market in the European Union according to the old law (PPE Directive 89/686 EEC in conjunction with the 8th Product Safety Act) until 20 April 2019, i.e. sell to any reseller or consumer.
2. The technical standards for PPE products have remained the same in most cases, therefore there is no need to fear any security gaps with the transitional provision.
3. Resellers (e.g. technical distributors, textile service companies, DIY stores, discount stores) can make PPE products, which they have purchased from manufacturers until 20 April 2019 according to the the old law, available on the market **indefinitely**, i.e. in particular sell on.
4. As of 21 April 2019, resellers may only purchase PPE products, which comply with the requirements of the PPE Regulation, from manufacturers. These changes apply in particular to formal demands such as manufacturer's labels, enclosing a Declaration of Conformity or increased documentation. However, the technical standards have for the most part remained unchanged.