



ACI/210/14

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Dentists feel the pain of counterfeit products

The Approved Cables Initiative (ACI) is warning distributors to only purchase cable product from reputable sources following the seizure of more than 12,000 pieces of poor quality electrical dental equipment.

This ACI warning follows the announcement by The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the UK's regulator for medical devices, of the confiscation of sub-standard dental equipment imported into the UK from China and Pakistan and sold on auction websites such as eBay, Amazon and Alibaba.

Counterfeit and unapproved dental equipment included high-speed hand piece drills, dental x-ray machines that emit high levels of radiation and poor quality root canal files. This latest announcement from the MHRA follows a safety alert to all dentistry professionals last year following an incident, when a counterfeit product for drilling, shattered while being used on a patient.

A spokesperson for the ACI said: "This is yet another example of where those with purchasing remit have been caught out by not following some simple procedures. This highlights the fact that not only is the manufacturer liable in this instance but all those in the supply chain. It is vitally important buyers check out the integrity of the seller. Buying from online auction websites makes this a much harder task. Unless there is traceability for their purchase distributors and the rest of the supply chain are in danger of making costly mistakes.

"We know some UK distributors and wholesalers look to China for alternative cable products but in order to safeguard their purchases, the ACI strongly recommends only buying cable manufactured to recognised standards and carrying third party approval. Anything else could affect their reputation and the safety of the public."

If you would like to know more about the Approved Cables Initiative's campaign please visit www.aci.org.uk or contact the ACI on 0208 946 6978/07973 636688 or email info@aci.org.uk.

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Note to editors

Approved Cables Initiative

Approved Cables Initiative (ACI), an industry-wide working group, is highlighting the dangers of sub-standard, defective and counterfeit cable to the cable supply industry (electric and data) and the general public.

Its work focuses upon communicating the ACI's concerns with such cable and that there is a gap in current legislation and enforcement. It is currently pushing for changes to UK legislation to stop dangerous cable being imported and to increase the penalties for infringements.

Anyone with information or concerns about a suspected faulty, defective or counterfeit cable should contact the ACI who will test samples and if found to be unsafe supply details to relevant industry regulators and legislators. ACI can also provide guidance where appropriate to installers.

ACI works with supply chain representative bodies including Electric Distributors Association (EDA); Electric Contractors Association (ECA); Electric Safety First; British Approvals Service for Cables (BASEC); British Cables Association (BCA); Energy Networks Association (ENA); Ascertiva (previously the NICEIC Group Limited), SELECT and the Joint Industry Board (JIB).

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