

 <b>한국소비자원</b> Korea Consumer Agency	<h1>Press Release</h1> <p>"An agency for the citizens in interest of consumers"</p>	 <a href="#">Facebook @kcanews</a>  <a href="#">Instagram @kca.go.kr</a>
<b>To be released on <span style="color: red;">June 9 morning</span> [or noon of June 8 for broadcast/Internet media]</b>		
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## Warning against the use of mask patches whose safety has not been verified

- Recommendation of remedial step for 49 mask patch products sold in the market -

Mask patch products\* are sold in the market nowadays, and businesses advertise that they help relieve the choking feeling caused by the wearing of a mask for hours or get rid of unpleasant odor, yet their safety has not been verified; hence the need to take precaution when choosing to use them.

\* Air fresheners in the form of patches attached to the outside or inside of a mask like a sticker

The Korea Consumer Agency (President Lee Hee-sook, KCA) checked a total of 49 mask patch products sold online, found that none of them have gone through the risk assessment and product reporting procedure, and recommended that businesses stop selling them.

☐ **None of the mask patches sold in the market have their safety verified**

Mask patches fall under the category of air fresheners(household chemical products), so they should go through environmental health risk assessment\* as per the relevant criteria\*\*, and related business should report the products to the Ministry of Environment after having their safety ascertained.

[ Mask patch sold in the market ]



\* Any manufacturer/importer of a relevant product should undergo environmental health risk assessment after submitting toxicity-related materials for each chemical substance contained in the product to KEITI (Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute) as per the relevant criteria.

\*\* Standards for Designation of Household Chemical Products Subject to Safety Check and Safety Marking (ME Notification No. 2020-117)

None of the businesses have gone through the procedure as of April 12, 2021, so KCA has recommended that all businesses related to the 49 products stop selling them.

**Businesses related to 41 of the 49 products replied that they would comply with KCA's recommendation and disclosed what they will do about the products.**

⇒ (The businesses' reply) The businesses related to 11 of them said that they will stop producing them; one said that it will follow the required procedure, with 29 saying that they will alter the use of the products to ordinary air fresheners.

With regard to the businesses related to 29 products informing KCA of their plan to alter the use of the products to ordinary air fresheners, KCA told them not to mark/advertise them as if they could be used for masks.

\* Ordinary air fresheners used indoors or for textile should go through the procedure for ascertainment under the Standards for Designation of Household Chemical Products Subject to Safety Check and Safety Marking for manufacture/sale.

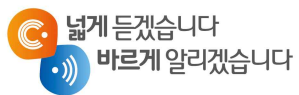
**Businesses related to 27 of the 29 products replied that they would delete mask-related phrases/pictures in products/advertisements.**

☐ **Consumers need to check the safety criteria-related mark/report number and use them only for the purposes indicated in the products**

KCA asked consumers to stop using immediately mask patches whose safety has not been demonstrated and to refrain from attaching ordinary air fresheners to their masks. It also added that household chemical products such as air fresheners/deodorizers should be purchased after checking the safety standards mark and report/approval numbers, and that they should be used only for the purposes indicated in the products.

※ Report/Approval numbers for household chemical products can be checked at "Household Environmental Safety Information System" ([ecolife.me.go.kr](http://ecolife.me.go.kr)) operated by ME.

KCA has provided the relevant ministries and institutions with the result of the relevant monitoring and its recommendations on the remedial steps issued to the businesses. According to KCA, KEITI will check the status of the businesses' compliance with said recommendations, and ME will take an administrative disposition against noncomplying businesses.



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