# Investigation reveals dangers of counterfeit Apple power adapters



An investigation by Apple in collaboration with the UK charity Electrical Safety First has revealed that counterfeit power adapters for Apple products are being tampered with in a dangerous manner, leading to potential safety hazards for consumers. The inquiry looked into 56 counterfeit power adapters identified within the UK and 60 within the EU that bore Apple's trademarks or were designed to mimic genuine products. Notably, the counterfeit items examined included both marked and unmarked devices.

Out of the 22 samples that underwent detailed internal investigation, findings showed that a concerning 68% contained metal weights. The presence of these weights, intended to mimic the heft of authentic adapters, poses a serious risk as they compromise the internal electrical safety features of the adapters. Genuine Apple power adapters are carefully designed to ensure adequate separation between components, which prevents potentially lethal electrical surges from reaching the USB output connector—a crucial feature for safely charging devices.

According to the investigation, the counterfeiters use metal to compensate for the inferior quality of components in genuine adapters, but this practice may lead to an increased risk of short circuits, electric shocks, or fires. Luke Osborne, deputy technical director at Electrical Safety First, remarked, “Criminal counterfeiters are doing everything they can to trick shoppers into thinking they’ve bagged a bargain, developing their tactics to avoid suspicion.” He further emphasised that these counterfeit products pose a significant danger, as they manipulate their appearance to lure consumers while disregarding their safety.

The investigation also included tests on the plug pins of the adapters, resulting in a staggering 71% failure rate. Many plug pins either snapped during the testing process or became distorted, increasing the chances of them lodging in sockets, which could expose users to electric shocks. Osborne reiterated the importance of purchasing electronics from reputable retailers or manufacturers to avoid the dangers associated with counterfeit products.

The inquiry highlights growing concerns over the sophistication with which counterfeiters operate, underscoring the need for awareness among consumers regarding the authenticity of products they purchase.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/media/1119/counterfeit-and-imitation-apple-chargers.pdf> - This document from Electrical Safety First discusses the dangers of counterfeit Apple chargers, including their failure rates in safety tests and the risks they pose to consumers. It highlights the sophistication of counterfeiters in mimicking genuine products.
* <https://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/mediafile/100492991/True-Cost-of-a-Counterfeit.pdf> - This report further details the risks associated with counterfeit electrical products, including Apple chargers, and emphasizes the importance of purchasing from reputable sources to avoid safety hazards.
* <https://library.ul.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/2016/09/10314-CounterfeitiPhone-WP-HighRes_FINAL.pdf> - Underwriters Laboratories conducted a study on counterfeit iPhone chargers, finding a high failure rate similar to the investigation mentioned in the article. This study supports the claim that counterfeit chargers pose significant safety risks.
* <https://www.justice.gov/opcl/overview-privacy-act-1974-2020-edition/disclosures-third-parties> - Although not directly related to counterfeit chargers, this document discusses unauthorized disclosures, which can be relevant in the context of counterfeit products being sold under false pretenses. However, it does not directly support the claims about counterfeit chargers.
* <https://discussions.apple.com/thread/253346527> - This discussion thread provides tips on identifying genuine Apple chargers, which is relevant to the article's emphasis on the importance of authenticity in avoiding counterfeit products.