

Factsheet

INSPECTED QUALITY – Mouth-Nose Mask

PRODUCT LABEL FOR MOUTH-NOSE MASKS (“COMMUNITY MASKS”) TESTED FOR FUNCTIONALITY AND HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

“INSPECTED QUALITY FOR MOUTH-NOSE MASKS” is a product label based on the independent third-party workshop agreement CWA 17553.

The CWA 17553 was established and endorsed by the CEN Members* (European Committee for Standardization). It is a community face coverings’ guide to minimum requirements, and methods of testing and use.

It enables us to provide you with a reliable label that gives your business partners as well as consumers the safety of an independent third-party workshop agreement.



*CEN Members are the national bodies of : Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.

WHAT IS BEING TESTED AND WHICH MASKS CAN BE TESTED?

“INSPECTED QUALITY FOR MOUTH-NOSE MASKS” defines certain criteria to protect the wearer against harmful substances. Further, it helps to reduce oral transmission by preventing the virus from getting into nose or mouth, after the wearer touches his or her face with hands that have been in contact with contaminated surfaces. On top, the mask tested according to CWA 17553 helps to reduce the risk of infecting the general public with droplet infection caused by speaking, sneezing and coughing.

The certification covers functionality tests such as breathability or shrinking behaviour and tests for harmful substances such as formaldehyde as well as forbidden arylamines.

The Label is applicable for all disposable and re-usable mouth-nose masks which do not fall under protective equipment or medical products regulation.



BENEFITS

- ✓ Transparent communication with your customer
- ✓ Communication of your product stewardship
- ✓ For disposable and re-useable masks
- ✓ Valid for one year

We use state of the art equipment to ensure the required safety of the tested mouth-nose masks.

WE SHARE OUR EXPERIENCE WITH YOU

We have tested a substantial number of mouth-nose masks based on CWA 17553 recommendations. The two most important requirements are filtration efficiency and breathability. We observed that:

- ✓ Currently only about 10%, of the masks tested so far, meet all requirements.
- ✓ 90% of the masks only meet one or none of these important requirements.

It is advisable to go with the mouth-nose masks through a controlled development process and test in each phase of the process to optimize it and make the necessary corrections as early as possible. As it is time consuming and expensive to loop back from a final product and re-design the mask all over again.

The machines involved are expensive and many small and medium-sized manufacturers simply miss the scale of economy to invest in such testing equipment.

OUR SOLUTION FOR YOU

- ✓ We test the phases of your development process for you so that you can make the right choice for your material and the processes used in the manufacture of the masks.
- ✓ You can then make the necessary adjustments to your material and process selection at an early stage.
- ✓ Parts of the product that were already tested during the development process and met the requirements do not have to be tested again in the final test.
- ✓ Pre-certification of parts of the product may be recognized depending on the type of certification (e.g. STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®).



CONTACT US

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