Specific Guideline

Authorization for marking with INSPECTED QUALITY for Mouth-Nose Mask

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1 Introduction

There are many textile producers worldwide that want to contribute to the fight against SARS-CoV-2 by pledging to supply safe disposable or re-usable and sustainable, protective items for the general public. Also called “Community -Mask”

Although most masks are better than nothing, there needs to be a certain minimum requirement for them in order to effectively reduce the risk of oral transmission by infecting the general public from droplet infection caused by speaking, sneezing and coughing and to protect the wearer against harmful substances in the mask and by preventing the virus from getting into her/his nose or mouth if she/he touches a contaminated surface and then her/his face.

Wearing a mask does not replace other interventions, like staying one to two meters apart or practicing good hand hygiene, but it is just an additional layer of protection.

2 Scope

This guideline applies to mouth-nose masks and specifies the minimum criteria to be fulfilled for the “INSPECTED QUALITY for Mouth-Nose Mask” label. This guideline only applies to masks which do not fall under the regulation of protective equipment and/or medical products. Furthermore it does not apply for masks which are finished with biological active substances.

3 Requirements

For the authorization to label masks with the INSPECTED QUALITY – Mouth-Nose mask must meet the following criteria.

3.1 Materials and construction

- The mouth nose mask is generally composed of a filter layer that is placed behind a protective outside layer and bonded with it
- It shall not split, tear, or disintegrate during use and re-conditioning, including fastening tapes (washing/drying if applicable)
- It must cover (overlap) mouth, nose and chin efficiently
- It must follow facial contours
- The filter material must cover (overlap) mouth and nose
- If a metal nose clip is used it must be in separate pouch and detachable

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3.2 Performance requirements

- Good skin tolerance (free of certain harmful substances, e.g. Standard 100 by OEKO-TEX®)
- Breathing resistance (SOP 050) ≥ 20l and ≤60l at 0,7 mbar and ≥ 95l and ≤ 200l at 2,4 mbar (Standard, allows to breath with the mask even when walking and performing light to medium heavy duties)
- Washable at 60°C, with detergent (in case of re-usable masks)
- Dryable at 70°C for 25 minutes (in case of re-usable masks)

3.3 Marking, labelling and packaging

- Care instructions must be included if applicable
- The information "wash before use" if applicable

3.4 Testing of material

If available, the company can provide test reports from accredited third parties (not older than 6 month) or valid certificates (e.g. STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® ….).

3.4.1 pH-value according ISO 3071

The pH of the material shall be in a range of 4.0 – 7.5

3.4.2 Formaldehyde (free and partially releasable) according JIS L-1041

The content of formaldehyde shall not exceed 16mg/kg.

3.4.3 Colour fastness

Colour fastness to saliva and perspiration according OEKO-TEX® Method 20-A
The staining shall be ≥ 4-5
Colour fastness to perspiration according ISO 105 E04 (only staining)
The staining for acidic and alkaline perspiration shall be ≥ 3-4

3.4.4 Cleavable cancerogenic arylamines

All coloured materials are tested for aromatic amines from the MAK Group III A1/A2 according EN 14362-1 and/or EN 14362-3 and shall be ≤ 20mg/kg.

3.4.5 Shrinking behaviour

Determination of dimensional change in washing and drying according ISO 5077 and ISO 3759.
The test is done after 1 domestic washing according ISO 6330 – 6N (60°C) and drying process 25 min at 70°C (deviating from the Norm ISO 6330, based on the special drying/decontamination process.
Woven fabrics: ± 2,5%
Knitted fabrics: ± 3%
Nonwoven: ± 3%

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3.5 Consumer Information

The consumer information provided by the manufacturer must include:

- Name: Mouth–Nose Mask (MNM) (the name or description shall not include the word “protection” or “medical” or imply either one of them in any way)
- Cleaning and care instruction (in case of re-usable items)
- Material composition
- Remark that it is no protective equipment nor a medical product:

4 Validity of the labelling authorization

The authorization is valid for one year. Re- certification is necessary for the further use of the label awarding of the qualifying right.

5 Documents in compliance with this Directive

- INSPECTED QUALITY Application form
- INSPECTED QUALITY Declaration of Conformity
- INSPECTED QUALITY Labelling Guideline

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