

COVID-19: AN OVERVIEW OF MASK RATINGS CLASSIFIED BY LEADING STANDARDS

This guide provides you with an overview of how some medical masks and facial filtering respirators are classified by ratings and filtration effectiveness as defined by leading American (USA) and European Union (EU) standards.

We have covered the mask types referenced by WHO, CDC, FDA and ECDC in their guidelines as recommended PPE respiratory protection for healthcare workers caring for, or entering environments with, suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients.

The importance of using facial filtering respirators (also known as facial filtering pieces) and medical masks (also known as surgical or procedure masks) as essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is intended to help protect healthcare workers (HCWs) from respiratory diseases, **including COVID-19 and to limit spread**. The following organizations offer guidance to HCWs during this time.



Click on attached logos to link to referenced authorities



World Health Organization



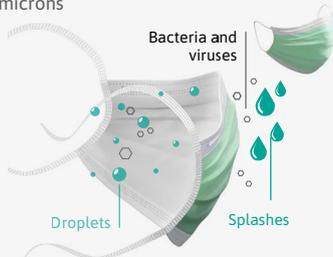
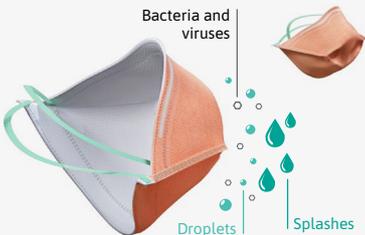
CDC
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION



ecdc
EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL



FDA U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Category	MEDICAL MASKS		FACIAL FILTERING RESPIRATORS		
MEDICAL MASKS Measures % efficacy of bacterial filtration efficiency (BFE) of the particle size @3.0 microns 	USA: ASTM F2100	Filtration efficiency is one of five tests conducted to classify the masks under 3 levels	Level 1 ≥ 95%	Level 2 ≥ 98%	Level 3 ≥ 98%
	EU: EN 14683	Filtration efficiency is one of four tests conducted to classify the masks under 3 types	Type I ≥ 95%	Type II ≥ 98%	TYPE IIR ≥ 98%
FACIAL FILTERING RESPIRATORS Measures the % efficacy of the penetrating particle size @0.3 microns 	USA: 42 CFR 84	This standard meets the performance criteria set by CDC for respiratory devices used in healthcare settings and is used by US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for certification	N95 ≥ 95%	N99 ≥ 99%	N100 ≥ 99.97%
	EU: EN 149	This standard specifies minimum requirements for filtering half masks as respiratory protective devices to protect against particles except for escape purposes	FFP 1 ≥ 80%	FFP 2 ≥ 94%	FFP 3 ≥ 99%

REMEMBER:

- Always ensure compliance with your local public health authorities regulations surrounding usage and selection guidance of personal protective equipment (PPE) to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Follow recommended mask conservation guidelines to preserve PPE for front line healthcare workers and to ensure appropriate supply based on risk level is available.

Disclaimer: Given the novelty of this coronavirus, recommendations from the source references are interim and advisory in nature and is based on current knowledge of the situation.