

Title: Standards and Their Application for the Production and Testing of Face Coverings and Related Products for Use against Infectious Diseases

Date and Time: 22 June 2021 – 2:30PM EEST/7:30AM EDT

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About the Session

The presentation will provide an overview of standards related to face coverings and related products, and describe how these standards can be implemented as part of a national program for addressing the spread of airborne infectious diseases. Part of the presentation will provide a comparison of different products that are used in both healthcare and the general public for minimizing exposure that include respirators, medical masks, and face coverings. This comparison will include both the features and performance of these products. Specific details will be provided on relevant product standards, especially ASTM F3502 used in the United States for Barrier Face Coverings, as well as requirements for medical masks and respirators both in North America and globally. The differences in requirements will be explained to indicate how various products would be expected to perform against airborne particles and droplets, including how individual products are tested and what test results mean. This information will account for the range of product features, such as their ability to be reused, and the relative product effectiveness in use.

A second part of the presentation will address how standards can be effectively implemented as part of a national strategy to govern the manufacture (or import) and use of face coverings and related products. In this part of the presentation, aspects related to these products such as conformity assessment and government oversight will be discussed. Specific global approaches will be described and recommendations will be made for the types of elements that should be included as part of a national strategy.

Learning Objectives

- How different face covering products work to capture expelled particulate and droplets
- The degree to which face covering products provide protection to the wearer for the inhalation of potentially infectious particulates
- The principal similarities and contrasts between respirators, medical masks, and face coverings
- The general types of testing and requirements that are applied to face coverings and related products
- Different options for how the manufacture and use of face coverings can be made consistent among end users including healthcare and the general population

Who Should Attend?

- Government authorities that regulate public health and the provision of protective products for both healthcare and the general public
- Government officials involved in the approval or clearance of medical devices
- Manufacturers of face coverings and related products or medical devices
- Individuals involved the development of standards for manufacture of medical device products or their use
- Members of organizations representing healthcare end users and other workers
- Professionals involved in research for disease transmission or individual protection

Would you like to ask a question? Please contact GlobalCooperation@astm.org.