

## National Facewear: Standards and Testing

Our non-medical "community" masks provide an extra layer of protection against COVID-19 as recommended by national and international health agencies. They are not FDA approved, not intended for medical use, and not a replacement for social distancing. Community face coverings are intended for use by people not displaying any clinical symptoms of viral or bacterial infection.

The World Health Organization issued guidelines on June 5, 2020 concerning non-medical community masks. The EU also published guidelines (CEN Workshop Agreement, June 2020) for community masks. Our supplier and partner, Pactics, regularly monitors published guidelines and contracts independent test labs to validate results. Below are some highlights from the WHO and EU publications.

	<b>World Health Organization</b>	<b>European Union</b>	<b>National Facewear</b>
<b>Particle Filtration Efficiency (PFE)</b>	No minimums provided but references published French standards of > 70% 3.0 micron	Minimum > 70% 3.0 micron	Meets Standards. 2 layer 72% 3.0 micron (Centexbel lab test); 3- layer with disposable nonwoven meltblown filter insert 99% 0.1 micron (Nelson Lab test)
<b>Breathability/Air Permeability</b>	< 1000 l/(m2.s) - converted from pa	< 960 l/(m2.s)	Meets standards. 788 l/(m2.s) (Centexbel lab test)
<b>Layers</b>	Recommend three; outer layer polyester, inner cotton and a middle hydrophobic layer	Not specific as to the number of layers but recommends multiple fabrics with acceptable PFE and breathability ratings	Both models have outer polyester and inner cotton. Three layer adds a hydrophobic polyester filter pocket which can hold a filter to further improve PFE
<b>Mask Shape</b>	Fits closely over nose, cheeks and chin	Fits closely over nose, cheeks and chin	Form fitting with middle seam, elastic band, adjustable nose clip and adjustable strap creating air pocket for better breathability
<b>Washing</b>	Frequently, 140 degrees F with detergent	Frequently, 140 degrees F with detergent, minimum five washings	Washable 140 degrees F with detergent, tested up to 30 washes, (Centexbel lab tested 5 washes)
<b>Wear and tear</b>	If fabric layers look noticeably worn out, discard the mask	If fabric layers look noticeably worn out, discard the mask	Durable and can undergo numerous washings without any noticeable deterioration
<b>Bacterial Filtration Efficiency</b>	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Both models > 95% 3 micron
<b>Flammability</b>	Not Mentioned	Not Mentioned	Passed as Class 1 under NIOSH standards (SGS lab test)

