

Welcome to the first edition of “The Bill” helping you un-mask (see what we did there) some of the most important elements in the selection and use of PPE for infection prevention.

During COVID-19, use of the correct mask is one of the most critical elements of PPE for healthcare workers. As a global leader in the manufacture of face masks, Halyard has been designing and optimising facial protection for over 20 years. Our deep expertise pioneering infection prevention products ensures ongoing quality and consistent, superior performance.

Halyard is sharing critical information around different types of masks, different levels of protection and performance fundamentals, explaining how masks work.

So, what makes a quality mask?

Quality masks do what they are intended to do, they don’t fall apart and are listed with regulatory bodies.

Signs of a good quality mask are related to high quality design, materials and performance fundamentals, offering protection when you need it most. Questions you may ask yourself when sourcing a quality mask may include:

- Is the manufacturer well-established, with quality systems in place to ensure what they are producing is consistent with quality standards?
- Do they have good raw material systems in place?
- Do they have an established relationship with the raw materials suppliers?
- Can they show documentation for the efficacy of the masks they are supplying?

Visual indicators of a high quality mask may include:

- ✔ Clearly well-made with high quality materials
- ✔ Ear loops that are well secured
- ✔ High consistency of quality in the products within the one mask box e.g. have the masks all been assembled the same way?
- ✔ High quality packaging with clear performance indicators or standards printed on the inner packaging

Regardless of the design, a poor quality mask will fail performance standards. Signs of a poor quality mask may include:

- ✘ Low quality materials
- ✘ Ear loops that are not well secured
- ✘ In the case of a respirator, the air flow could be going the wrong way, or there could be leaks happening around the edges.
- ✘ Poor packaging, poor consistency of product within the one box
- ✘ Low performance, or product break down over time

Halyard sets the benchmark for N95 Respirator quality

HALYARD FLUIDSHIELD* Surgical N95 Respirators

CROSS SECTION



Smaller viruses and particles (0.3 micron) stick to the fibers in the respirator.

SPUNBOND OUTER LAYER

Contributes to splash resistance, with the HALYARD FLUIDSHIELD distinctive orange color.

ELECTROSTATICALLY CHARGED FILTER MEDIA

The super-fine, electrostatically charged fibers in the filter media create a tortuous path which captures at least 95% of all particles, even the most difficult 0.3 microns.¹

SPLASH BARRIER

Provides the highest-recognized level of protection from splash.²

SO-SOFT* INNER LINING

Provides a soft, smooth layer for greater comfort.

1. OSHA. Hospital Respiratory Protection Program Toolkit. 2015;
2. IFS Job # 46161 and 72843;



Larger microorganisms, like bacteria and aerosolized droplets, are trapped between the fibers.

With the sudden high demand for masks during COVID-19, there has been a surge of new players in the market. The FDA has rejected close to 1,000 applications for products to be listed and local regulatory bodies, such as the TGA in Australia, fast tracked the listing of face masks to increase supply. Once substantiation was required, over 400 masks were withdrawn from listing with the TGA. This highlights that our regulatory bodies are doing a good job in screening products to ensure the protection of healthcare workers and keep poor quality masks out of the market.

Halyard heritage in the manufacture and supply of quality face masks supports ongoing listing with all local regulatory bodies.

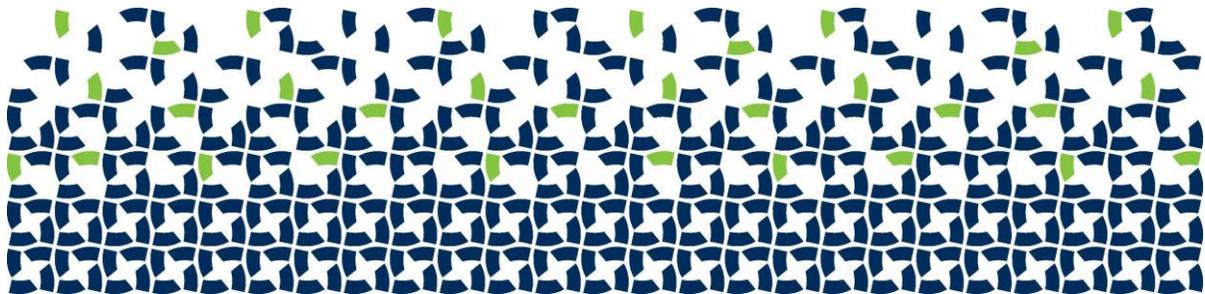
More information

For more information about selecting good quality masks, contact your O&M Halyard Account Manager. You can also hear more about 'The role of face masks in a pandemic'

along with a number of other topics in the new HALYARD Education Foundation Podcast series.



DON'T WEAR THE RISK. WEAR HALYARD



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