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Standard Specification for Performance of Materials Used in Medical Face Masks¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers testing and requirements for materials used in the construction of medical face masks that are used in providing health care services such as surgery and patient care.

1.2 This specification provides for the classification of medical face mask material performance. Medical face mask material performance is based on testing for bacterial filtration efficiency, differential pressure, sub-micron particulate filtration efficiency, resistance to penetration by synthetic blood, and flammability.

1.3 This specification does not address all aspects of medical face mask design and performance. This specification does not specifically evaluate the effectiveness of medical face mask designs as related to the barrier and breathability properties. This specification does not also apply to respiratory protection, which may be necessary for some health care services.

1.4 The values stated in SI units or in other units shall be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system must be used independently of the other, without combining values in any way.

1.5 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 9, of this specification: *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F23 on Protective Clothing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F23.40 on Biological .
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