



Designation: F2100 – 11

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 are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

[F1494 Terminology Relating to Protective Clothing](#)

[F1862 Test Method for Resistance of Medical Face Masks to Penetration by Synthetic Blood \(Horizontal Projection of](#)

[Fixed Volume at a Known Velocity\)](#)

[F2101 Test Method for Evaluating the Bacterial Filtration Efficiency \(BFE\) of Medical Face Mask Materials, Using a Biological Aerosol of *Staphylococcus aureus*](#)

[F2299 Test Method for Determining the Initial Efficiency of Materials Used in Medical Face Masks to Penetration by Particulates Using Latex Spheres](#)

2.2 *ANSI/ASQC Standard*:³

[ANSI/ASQC Z1.4 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes](#)

2.3 *ISO Standard*:⁴

[ISO 2859-1 Sampling Plans for Inspection by Attributes](#)

2.4 *Military Standard*:⁵

[MIL-M-36954C Military Specification, Mask, Surgical, Disposable](#)

2.5 *Federal Standards*:⁶

[16 CFR Part 1610 Standard for the Flammability of Clothing Textiles](#)

[29 CFR Part 1910.1030 Occupational Exposure to Blood-borne Pathogens: Final Rule](#)

[42 CFR Part 84 Approval of Respiratory Protective Devices](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

3.1.1 *bacterial filtration efficiency (BFE), n*—the effectiveness of medical face mask material in preventing the passage of aerosolized bacteria; expressed in the percentage of a known quantity that does not pass the medical face mask material at a given aerosol flow rate.

3.1.2 *body fluid, n*—any liquid produced, secreted, or excreted by the human body.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—In this specification, body fluids include liquids potentially infected with blood-borne pathogens, including, but not limited to, blood, semen, vaginal secretions,

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

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from American Society for Quality (ASQ), 600 N. Plankinton Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53203, <http://www.asq.org>.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

⁵ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, <http://dodssp.daps.dla.mil>.

⁶ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.