

Coronavirus

AFNOR provides a standard for manufacturing “barrier masks” intended to protect the population

Thanks to the direct involvement of nearly 150 experts, AFNOR is providing new specifications to facilitate and accelerate the manufacturing of masks, known as “barrier masks”. Intended for employees of businesses, public services and the entire healthy population, these masks complete the range of essential barrier gestures in the face of the coronavirus epidemic.

Paris, March 27, 2020-Helping public and private organizations to continue or resume their activities while reducing the flow of patients to hospitals are two of the challenges of the health crisis our country is going through. This is why, on March 20, AFNOR took an initiative aimed at facilitating the rapid equipping of the healthy population with new protective masks. Called “barrier masks”, these meet a less ambitious level of performance than that set in the European plan for [surgical masks and FFP2](#) , intended primarily for health professionals in exposed populations. In addition to barrier gestures, these new masks nevertheless provide real protection, thanks to criteria validated by nearly 150 experts following a collective effort and unprecedented mobilization.

The document [AFNOR Spec – Barrier masks version 1.0 is made available free of charge](#) on March 27, 2020. Usable for mass production in textile and plastics industries, it is also designed to guide those who have the skills and materials necessary for artisanal manufacturing. The document also offers an important section of recommendations for use for people not accustomed to wearing a mask, which is almost systematically the case for populations who are not usually exposed.



Thanks to regular and constructive interaction with the Public Authorities throughout recent days, the document has been designed to be compatible with the most recent regulatory developments in terms of expected performance.

"At the heart of its mission of general interest, AFNOR initiated this project with the assistance of an exceptional community of experts, whom I salute, determined to work in absolutely record time and to complete it, in 7 days and without any physical meeting, to a reference document, consensual and representing the combination of everyone's experiences. The project continues since we will improve and enrich this document based on feedback, thanks to a community of industrialists and users, in liaison with the Public Authorities.»

Olivier Peyrat, general director of AFNOR

A **sixth** **gesture** **barrier**
Added to regular hand washing, the reflex of coughing or sneezing into your elbow, etc. the barrier mask aims to equip everyone when traveling and at work. It will contribute to the continued functioning of our country and the resumption of activities of all companies and organizations in the broad sense. From now on, any organization can use it to place orders with manufacturers.

Who has elaborated [AFNOR Spec - Barrier masks](#)

Manufacturers, technical and industrial organizations, future prescribing companies to equip their employees, Public Authorities... Nearly 150

experts have worked hard since March 20 to finalize this document, led by Ewa Messaoudi, president of the “personal protective equipment” standardization commission and manager within the company Honeywell Respiratory Safety Products, with the support of a fully mobilized AFNOR team.

AFNOR Spec – Barrier masks 1.0: an evolving document In the same logic as voluntary standards, *AFNOR Spec – Barrier masks* will be enriched to meet the expectations of interested parties and based on user feedback. Email-address maskscoronavirus@afnor.org is available to anyone who wishes to suggest improvements.

Share this initiative with others country
AFNOR is a very active member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). THE [AFNOR Spec document - Barrier masks 1.0](#) will be shared with all French-speaking organizations around the world. It will be translated to be quickly transmitted to standardization organizations which request it.

HAS about from AFNOR
Responsible for promoting the co-construction of texts with added value and supporting innovations, AFNOR facilitates consultation between interested parties by bringing together all categories of actors concerned by an issue, with the assistance of partner standardization operators. Nearly 20,000 representatives of companies, associations, federations and the State take part in the development of voluntary standards each year, in 90% of cases at the European or international level. <https://normalisation.afnor.org>

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Masques barrières

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Guide d'exigences
minimales, de méthodes
d'essais, de confection
et d'usage

Fabrication en série et confection artisanale