



FALL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

S1.8: Testing Respirators, Masks and Face Coverings: Current Status and Proposed Changes

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ABSTRACT

There are multiple types of standards that cover different types of respirators and face coverings. Respirators in the United States are tested to NIOSH standard 42 CFR part 84. ASTM F2100 is the specification for the material used in medical face masks which are regulated by the FDA. There are now face coverings that are not respirators or medical masks. Up until now there has not been a standard test method for evaluating this type of device. Several groups are now working on writing standards for testing these barrier face coverings.

In my presentation I will describe in detail the test methods used to test respirators and medical masks as well as describe the proposed changes to the ASTM test methods for medical masks. In addition, I will provide status of the development of new test methods for face coverings. There are two groups working on similar standards. A task group within ASTM is working on a specification for Barrier Face Coverings and a group with ISEA (international Safety Equipment Association) is also working on a similar test method. Both of these new proposed standards and one of the proposed changes to ASTM F2100 are considering a test method similar to the NIOSH tests for N95 respirators.