

# BSI Kitemark certification for Face Coverings

## Giving consumers confidence, and helping manufacturers build trust

Face coverings are becoming more widely worn as countries reopen their economies and move to the next normal. As of early May 2020, 88% of the world's population lives in a country that recommends or mandates the use of face coverings in public. These products are designed to cover the wearers nose and mouth and are intended to protect others, not the wearer, against the risk of the spread of infection.

As more face coverings enter the market where performance and design may differ significantly, BSI Kitemark certification offers consumers a level of trust when choosing a face covering. It also provides manufacturers with an opportunity to demonstrate the performance of their products.

The Kitemark certification programme assesses face coverings to a recognized technical specification that includes requirements such as 70% particle filtration and breathability tests to ensure consumer comfort whilst reducing the risk of spreading infection.

It is important to note that BSI Kitemark certification for Face Coverings does not assess the products to the same regulatory requirements as PPE or Medical Devices, therefore, face coverings are not considered as PPE.

### What specification is the Kitemark for face coverings based on?

This certification scheme has been developed for manufacturers of face coverings who wish to demonstrate that their products have been independently assessed to perform as intended. Originally based on an AFNOR specification this scheme is now transitioning to the [BSI Flex 5555 specification](#).

### How do I achieve BSI Kitemark certification?

The first step towards achieving Kitemark certification for face coverings is that samples of the product must be tested. This is known as initial type testing.

The face coverings are put through various tests in our laboratories including filtration and breathability tests to ensure consumer comfort as well as performance. This process goes beyond an initial set of tests as products need to be assessed on an ongoing basis to demonstrate trust and to make sure the coverings that are manufactured continue to offer the appropriate levels of protection for use.

For organizations that have a Quality Management System (QMS) in place that can be audited, we audit the QMS or review their ISO 9001 certification related to the manufacture of face coverings, either on-site or remotely.

Once this is done and all requirements are met, the Kitemark certificate is issued.

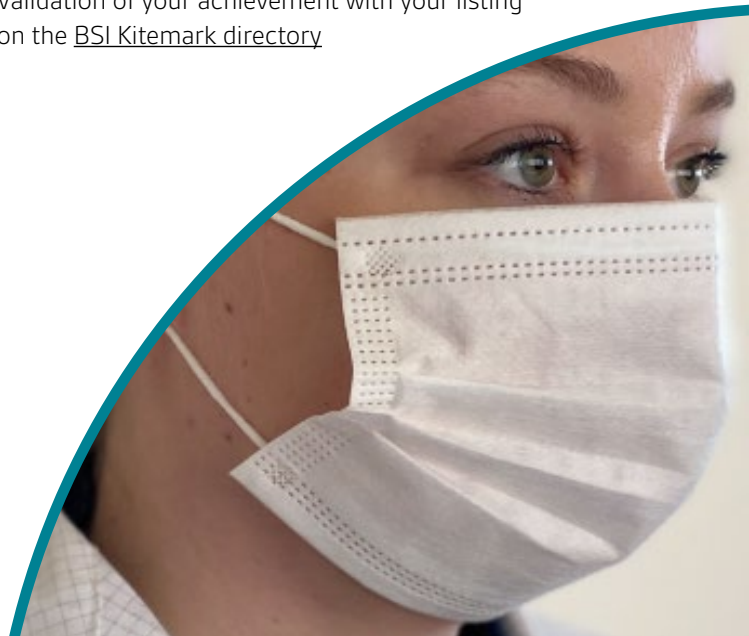
Then on an ongoing - basis we:

- Audit the QMS twice per year, either on-site or remotely
- Audit test the product twice per year in the BSI labs

For organizations that do not have a formal Quality Management System (QMS) in place that can be audited, we test each batch of product in the BSI laboratories as a means of on-going quality control.

### What are the benefits of achieving BSI Kitemark certification?

- Differentiation as it helps you stand out from the competition
- Gain consumer confidence by displaying the BSI Kitemark, a recognized Mark of Trust, on your products
- Independent assessment helps ensure consistency, performance and quality of a product
- Reduce risk by having products tested against a recognized specification
- Validation of your achievement with your listing on the [BSI Kitemark directory](#)



## About BSI Kitemark certification



- Achieving a BSI Kitemark for a product is voluntary. It is a quality mark unique to BSI and is recognized worldwide as a symbol of quality, safety and trust
- Kitemark certification has been trusted for over 115 years by consumers and businesses committed to excellence as a symbol of quality and safety
- Products and services that achieve Kitemark certification are assessed time and time again on a regular basis to help ensure consistency, safety and quality. This is what we believe sets the BSI Kitemark apart from many other certification schemes
- And BSI Kitemark delivers peace of mind as it builds trust through an independent and robust certification process



(Images supplied courtesy of Rototherm Group.)

## Why BSI

BSI leads the way in embedding safety culture with our decades of experience in testing and certifying of Personal Protective Equipment and Medical Devices. With world class, state-of-the-art testing laboratories we enable our clients to bring their products to market and be compliant. Our Notified Body status for PPER and MDR means we are a trusted source of expertise on essential information regarding regulations and standards. And in line with our commitment to excellence we are the custodians of the ultimate Mark of Trust: Kitemark certification.

Since our foundation more than 100 years ago as the world's first National Standards Body, we have partnered with our clients to successfully navigate through environmental, societal and economic setbacks.

Today we are a trusted global brand comprising of over 5000 colleagues, operating in over 193 countries and shaping some of the world's most widely adopted standards and habits of excellence.

We enable our clients to be prepared for whatever comes their way to become stronger and more resilient organizations. We help our clients inspire trust in their people, processes and products, as underpinned by our Royal Charter. It's in our DNA.



By Royal Charter

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