

## **BNQ Ready to Receive Applications for Attestations for Masks Intended for Workplace Use**

**Québec, December 17, 2020** – The Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) launch today the attestation program for masks intended for work environments. Manufacturers and distributors of masks used to prevent COVID-19 transmission by individuals who are pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic but nonetheless contagious can now apply to have the conformity of their masks recognized.

Attestation document BNQ 1922-900, *Masks Intended for Working Environments*, sets out the quality and performance requirements for masks intended for workplace use, whether single-use or reusable and whether used with or without a removable filter. It also indicates the test methods to be used to ensure quality and performance requirements are met. Masks must meet two filtration requirements and one breathability requirement, along with additional requirements regarding such aspects as materials and maintenance.

Employers, workers and consumers will be able to easily recognize attested masks by means of a distinct label including the BNQ's mark of conformity.

### **A voluntary application program**

This voluntary application program, an initiative of the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST), represents the culmination of the hard work of a multidisciplinary scientific and technical committee of health experts, test laboratories, mask manufacturers and users with a range of occupations. Their work was completed to tight deadlines thanks to the unflagging effort and collaboration of all stakeholders, who were keenly aware of the urgency surrounding the pandemic.

Attested masks can be used in workplaces that are not clinical settings and are free of anyone showing symptoms compatible with COVID-19, where physical distancing measures cannot be respected and physical barriers cannot be used. These masks are an alternative to the medical and procedure masks currently recommended by the CNESST to protect workers.

For use in clinical settings, a mask must be recognized as a medical device according to the supplementary criteria set by Health Canada. Obtaining that recognition from Health Canada is the responsibility of manufacturers and distributors.

Along with physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and keeping premises clean, covering one's nose and mouth has become an essential part of workers' daily lives as a way to protect themselves and those around them.

Attestation document BNQ 1922-900, *Masks Intended for Working Environments*, can be downloaded free of charge from the BNQ website, at [bnq.qc.ca/masks](http://bnq.qc.ca/masks)

### **Quotations**

“The members of the technical committee have done a great deal of important work to protect workers' health, taking the interests of all stakeholders into account. The attestation document is now the go-to source for assessing the quality and performance of masks to be used in the workplace.”

*Jean Rousseau, Senior Director, BNQ*

### **About the BNQ**

The BNQ, a business unit of Investissement Québec, is the authority for standards and certification in Québec. It develops consensus-based standards and certification protocols in accordance with the rules of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The BNQ is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC).

For more information on the BNQ, visit [www.bnq.qc.ca](http://www.bnq.qc.ca)

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