

## Latex Particle Challenge Final Report

Test Article: Surgical Face Mask  
Study Number: 1285296-S01  
Study Received Date: 06 Apr 2020  
Testing Facility: Nelson Laboratories, LLC  
6280 S. Redwood Rd.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84123 U.S.A.  
Test Procedure(s): Standard Test Protocol (STP) Number: STP0005 Rev 07  
Deviation(s): Quality Event (QE) Number(s): QE22125

**Summary:** This procedure was performed to evaluate the non-viable particle filtration efficiency (PFE) of the test article. Monodispersed polystyrene latex spheres (PSL) were nebulized (atomized), dried, and passed through the test article. The particles that passed through the test article were enumerated using a laser particle counter.

A one-minute count was performed, with the test article in the system. A one-minute control count was performed, without a test article in the system, before and after each test article and the counts were averaged. Control counts were performed to determine the average number of particles delivered to the test article. The filtration efficiency was calculated using the number of particles penetrating the test article compared to the average of the control values.

The procedure employed the basic particle filtration method described in ASTM F2299, with some exceptions; notably the procedure incorporated a non-neutralized challenge. In real use, particles carry a charge, thus this challenge represents a more natural state. The non-neutralized aerosol is also specified in the FDA guidance document on surgical face masks. All test method acceptance criteria were met. Testing was performed in compliance with US FDA good manufacturing practice (GMP) regulations 21 CFR Parts 210, 211 and 820.

Test Side: Inside  
Area Tested: 91.5 cm<sup>2</sup>  
Particle Size: 0.1 µm  
Laboratory Conditions: 21°C, 23% relative humidity (RH) at 1553; 20°C, 24% RH at 1730  
Average Filtration Efficiency: 99.50%  
Standard Deviation: 0.133

Study Director

  
Curtis Gerow, B.S.15 Apr 2020  
Study Completion Date

1285296-S01

**Deviation Details:** Control counts were conducted for one minute instead of an average of three one minute counts. This change shortens the total test time for each sample but will still provide an accurate determination of the particle counts. An equilibrate is a dwell period where the challenge is being applied to the test article for a certain period of time before test article counts are counted. The equilibrate period was reduced from 2 minutes to a minimum of 30 seconds which is sufficient time to clear the system of any residual particles, and establish a state of stable equilibrium before sample counts are taken. Test method acceptance criteria were met, results are valid.

**Results:**

Test Article Number	Test Article Counts	Average Control Counts	Filtration Efficiency (%)
1	60	12,213	99.51
2	88	12,143	99.27
3	49	12,649	99.62
4	62	13,049	99.52
5	57	13,323	99.57