

Bacterial Filtration Efficiency (BFE) and Differential Pressure (Delta P) Final Report

Test Article: Face Mask 20191017EL
Study Number: 1235898-S01
Study Received Date: 28 Oct 2019
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: STP0004 Rev 17
Deviation(s): None

Summary: The BFE test is performed to determine the filtration efficiency of test articles by comparing the bacterial control counts upstream of the test article to the bacterial counts downstream. A suspension of *Staphylococcus aureus* was aerosolized using a nebulizer and delivered to the test article at a constant flow rate and fixed air pressure. The challenge delivery was maintained at $1.7 - 3.0 \times 10^3$ colony forming units (CFU) with a mean particle size (MPS) of $3.0 \pm 0.3 \mu\text{m}$. The aerosols were drawn through a six-stage, viable particle, Andersen sampler for collection. This test method complies with ASTM F2101-19 and EN 14683:2019, Annex B.


The Delta P test is performed to determine the breathability of test articles by measuring the differential air pressure on either side of the test article using a manometer, at a constant flow rate. The Delta P test complies with EN 14683:2019, Annex C and ASTM F2100-19.

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
BFE Test Area: $\sim 40 \text{ cm}^2$
BFE Flow Rate: 28.3 Liters per minute (L/min)
Delta P Flow Rate: 8 L/min
Conditioning Parameters: $85 \pm 5\%$ relative humidity (RH) and $21 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ for a minimum of 4 hours
Test Article Dimensions: $\sim 176 \text{ mm} \times \sim 156 \text{ mm}$
Positive Control Average: 2.5×10^3 CFU
Negative Monitor Count: < 1 CFU
MPS: $3.1 \mu\text{m}$




Study Director


Janelle R. Bentz, M.S.


Study Completion Date



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Results:

Test Article Number	Percent BFE (%)
1	99.6
2	99.3
3	99.4
4	99.5
5	99.5

Test Article Number	Delta P (mm H ₂ O/cm ²)	Delta P (Pa/cm ²)
1	3.9	38.6
2	3.9	38.1
3	4.1	39.9
4	4.4	42.9
5	4.1	40.6

The filtration efficiency percentages were calculated using the following equation:

$$\% BFE = \frac{C - T}{C} \times 100$$

C = Positive control average

T = Plate count total recovered downstream of the test article

Note: The plate count total is available upon request