In December 2015, Standards Australia published an updated version of the standard for “Single-use face masks for use in health care”. The objective was to simplify the standard and harmonise with the North American ASTM F2100-11 and European (EN) 14683.

**OLD STANDARD (AS) 4381:2002:**

**CHARACTERISTICS** | **GENERAL PURPOSE** | **SUBMICRON** | **FLUID RESISTANT** | **TEST METHOD**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---

**Bacterial Filtration Efficiency (BFE) % (3 μm)** | 95% (min) | 98% (min) | 98% (min) | AS4381

**Particulate Filtration Efficiency (PFE) % (0.1 μm)** | Not Required | 98% (min) | 98% (min) | AS4381

**Differential Pressure (ΔP) mm H₂O** | 5.0 (max) | 5.0 (max) | 5.0 (max) | AS4381

**Resistance to penetration by synthetic blood (fluid resistance) at 16.0 kPa pressure** | Not Required | Not Required | No evidence of blood reaching the inner layer of material | AS4381

**NEW STANDARD (AS) 4381:2015: RED INDICATES CHANGE**

**CHARACTERISTICS** | **LEVEL 1** | **LEVEL 2** | **LEVEL 3** | **TEST METHOD**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---

**Bacterial Filtration Efficiency (BFE) %** | ≥ 95% | ≥ 98% | ≥ 98% | ASTM F2101-14 or EN 14683:2014

**Particulate Filtration Efficiency (PFE) % (0.1 μm)** | Not Required | Not Required | Not Required | N/A

**Differential Pressure (ΔP) mm H₂O/cm²** | < 4.0 | < 5.0 | < 5.0 | EN 14683:2014

**Resistance to penetration by synthetic blood (fluid resistance) min pressure in mm Hg for pass result** | 80mm Hg | 120mm Hg | 160mm Hg | ASTM F1862 / F1862M-13 or ISO 22609

**PLUS:** Requires Instructions For Use, “The masks should be packed such that each mask can be removed without becoming entangled in another”
**AS 4381: 2015**

**NEW FACE MASK STANDARD**

**Problem**

Studies show fluid strikes the face area of OR staff on average 45–51% of the time. 45% of masks used in Australia are not fluid resistant.

**Solution**

**AS 4381: 2015** is the new standard for single-use face masks, revised in December 2015. The Respiratory Standard (AS/NSZ 1715 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment) is separate and remains unchanged.

Single-use masks are now measured on 3 performance metrics:

- Bacterial Filtration (BFE)
- Fluid Resistance
- Breathability

All HALYARD® FLUIDSHIELD® Surgical and Procedure Masks are available in Levels 1, 2, and 3 and are fluid-resistant.

**Masks are rated according to performance levels:**

- **Level 1**
  - 80 mm Hg
  - Fluid Exposure

- **Level 2**
  - 120 mm Hg
  - Fluid Exposure

- **Level 3**
  - 160 mm Hg
  - Fluid Exposure

**Question your protection**

Ensure your masks comply with AS 4381: 2015. Contact your Halyard Account Manager to simplify compliance today.

---


*Registered Trademark or Trademark of Halyard Health, Inc. or its affiliates. © 2016 HYH. All rights reserved. PPE:FP:1604:WFHY699*