

THE BNQ CERTIFIES A FIRST BATCH OF REUSABLE MASKS INTENDED FOR WORKING ENVIRONMENTS

Québec, June 28, 2021 – The Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ) is pleased to announce it has issued an attestation for a first batch of reusable face masks intended for working environments.

This important announcement follows the launch of a program to attest the performance of non-medical masks intended for use in working environments. This program was developed by the BNQ at the request of the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST).

The Montréal-based EcoUNIFORM (9398-9341 Québec inc.) received the first attestation issued by BNQ for a batch of 15,000 reusable masks made in Québec by the Louiseville-based Chemise Empire. These masks were deemed in compliance with the requirements of the BNQ's Attestation Document 1922-900 *Masks Intended for Working Environments* published in December 2020.

The document is the culmination of the tireless efforts of a multidisciplinary scientific and technical committee consisting of health experts, testing laboratories, mask manufacturers, and users in various industries. It sets out quality and performance criteria for reusable or single-use masks, with or without a removable filter. It also describes the testing methods used to ensure compliance with various requirements, including filtration, breathability, materials, and care.

The voluntary BNQ 1922-900 attestation program has sparked considerable interest among mask manufacturers and distributors seeking to have their products recognized as compliant for use in working environments.

In the yellow or green zones currently in effect across Quebec, procedural or BNQ-attested masks are recommended for indoor and outdoor work where there are interactions within two meters without physical barriers. In orange or red zones, such masks are mandatory to prevent transmission of COVID-19 and its variants.

Employers, workers, and consumers will be able to easily recognize attested masks, thanks to a manufacturer-attached label bearing a distinctive logo indicating BNQ's conformity mark.



In clinical settings, medical masks are still mandatory. It is up to manufacturers and distributors to take the necessary steps to obtain recognition from Health Canada for their masks to be considered a medical device.

To download BNQ's Attestation document 1922-900 *Masks Intended for Work Environments* free of charge and consult the list of businesses that have received an attestation letter, go to the BNQ's website: bnq.qc.ca/masques.

Quotes

"With the attestation of a first batch of reusable masks, which came soon after the release of the document, there is now a more diverse selection of protective equipment for Quebec workers, while guaranteeing the quality and performance of available products. Thank you to our partners who made this innovative program possible, and congratulations to the first business that succeeded in demonstrating the compliance of its reusable masks."

Jean Rousseau, BNQ Senior Director

"The CNESST has once again shown its leadership in prevention, and thanks to this initiative, workplaces will now be able to rely on masks that meet the highest occupational health and safety standards for quality, while complying with sustainable development goals."

Manuelle Oudar, Chair of the Board and CEO of CNESST

"After months of development, EcoUNIFORM is very proud to have met CNESST's requirements and to have market its BNQ-attested ECO99 mask. Not only is the mask extremely safe and effective, it is also an eco-friendly choice that helps reduce the number of masks thrown away in the garbage. We are certain that it will appeal to a broad clientele."

Jonathan Sibony, President, EcoUNIFORM, Chemise Empire, and Au Noir

About BNQ

Bureau de normalisation du Québec (BNQ), a business unit of Investissement Québec, is the authority for standards and certification in Québec. It develops consensus standards and certification protocols in accordance with the rules of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). BNQ is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). For more information about BNQ, visit www.bnq.qc.ca

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