

The following list of Australian Standards relevant to infection control in health care settings is taken from the national *Infection Control Guidelines for the Prevention of Transmission of Infectious Diseases in the Health Care Setting*, Copyright Commonwealth of Australia, January, 2004, (reproduced with permission).

<b>Australian/New Zealand Standard number and year</b>	<b>Title</b>
AS 1079.1 – AS 1079.5 (1993-94)	Packaging of items (sterile) for patient care
AS 1079.1 (1993)	Packaging of items (sterile) for patient care – Selection of packaging materials for goods undergoing sterilisation
AS 1079.2 (1994)	Packaging of items (sterile) for patient care – Non-reusable papers – For the wrapping of goods undergoing sterilisation in health care facilities
AS 1079.3 (1994)	Packaging of items (sterile) for patient care – Paper bags – For single use in health care facilities
AS 1079.4 (1988)	Packaging of items (sterile) for patient care – Flexible packaging systems – For single use in hospitals
AS 1079.5 (1994)	Packaging of items (sterile) for patient care – Non-reusable, non-woven wrapping materials – For goods undergoing sterilisation in health care facilities
AS/NZS 1336 (1997)	Recommended practices for occupational eye protection
AS/NZS 1337 (1992) and Amendment 1 (1994)	Eye protectors for industrial applications
AS 1386 (1989)	Clean rooms and clean workstations
AS 1410 (1987) and Amendments 1 and 2 (1987)	Sterilisers – Steam – Pre-vacuum
AS 1668.2 (1991) and Supplement 1 (1991)	The use of mechanical ventilation and air-conditioning in buildings – Mechanical ventilation for acceptable indoor-air quality
AS/NZS 1730 (1996)	Washbasins
AS 2182 (1998)	Sterilisers – Steam – Benchtop
AS 2192 (1991)	Sterilisers – Steam – Downward displacement

<b>Australian/New Zealand Standard number and year</b>	<b>Title</b>
AS/NZS 2243.3 (1995) and Amendments 1 (1995) and 2 (1998)	Safety in laboratories – Microbiology
AS 2437 (1987) and Amendment 1 (1988)	Flusher/sanitiser for bed pans and urine bottles
AS 2487 (1981)	Dry heat sterilisers (hot air type)
AS 2610.1 (1993)	Spa pools – Public spas
AS 2610.2 (1993)	Spa pools – Private spas
AS 2773 (1998)	Ultrasonic cleaners for health care facilities
AS 2945 (1998)	Batch-type washer/disinfectors for health care facilities
AS SET 3500 (1998)	National Plumbing Code Set
AS 3500.1 (1998)	National plumbing and drainage – Water supply
AS/NZS 3666 (1995)	Air-handling and water systems of buildings – Microbial control
AS 3789.2 (1991) and Amendment 1 (1992)	Textiles for health care facilities and institutions – Theatre linen and pre-packs
AS 3789.3 (1994)	Textiles for health care facilities and institutions – Apparel for operating theatre staff
AS/NZS 3816 (1998)	Management of clinical and related wastes
AS 3864 (1997) and Amendment 1 (1998)	Medical refrigeration equipment – For the storage of blood and blood products
AS/NZS 3896 (1998)	Waters – Examination for legionellae including Legionella pneumophila
AS/NZS 4011 (1997) and Amendment 1 (1998)	Single-use examination gloves – Specification
AS 4031 (1992) and Amendment 1 (1996)	Non-reusable containers for the collection of sharp medical items used in health care areas
AS/NZS 4146 (2000)	Laundry practice

<b>Australian/New Zealand Standard number and year</b>	<b>Title</b>
AS/NZS 4179 (1997)	Single-use sterile surgical rubber gloves – Specification
AS/NZS 4187 (2003)	Cleaning, disinfecting and sterilizing reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of associated environments in health care facilities
AS/NZS 4261 (1994) and Amendment 1 (1997)	Reusable containers for the collection of sharp items used in human and animal medical applications
AS 4381 (1996) and Amendment 1 (1997)	Surgical face masks
AS 4480.1 (1998)	Textiles for health care facilities and institutions – Medical sheepskins – Product specification and testing
AS/NZS 4815 (2001)	Office-based health care facilities not involved in complex patient procedures and processes – Cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising reusable and surgical instruments and equipment

# 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<sup>1</sup>



**45% of masks used in Australia are not fluid resistant<sup>2</sup>**

There is a **high cost** associated with infections which may include;



chronic disabilities



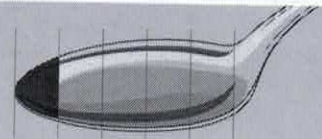
emotional stress



loss of income and/or employment

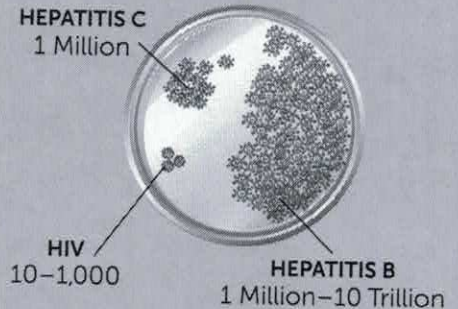


facility cost



1 millilitre of blood = 1/5 of a teaspoon

Just **1 millilitre** of blood can contain virus counts that range from:<sup>3</sup>



THE NEW STANDARD

**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

**MASKS ARE RATED ACCORDING TO PERFORMANCE LEVELS:**

**1**

80 mm Hg

LOW

**2**

120 mm Hg

MODERATE

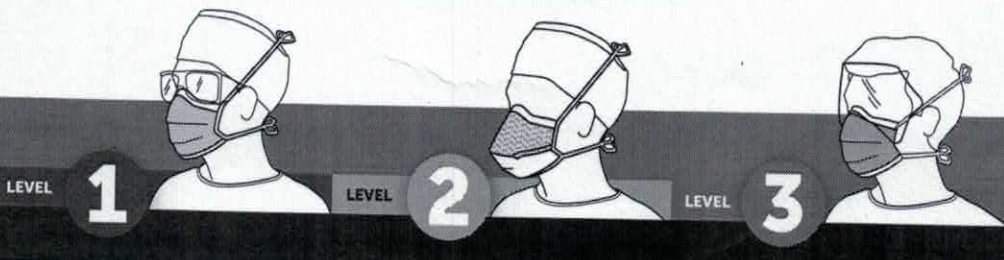
**3**

160 mm Hg

HIGH

Fluid Exposure

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



**QUESTION YOUR PROTECTION**

Ensure your masks comply with **AS 4381: 2015.**

Contact your Halyard Account Manager to simplify compliance today.

SOLUTION

1. CG Davies et al. Ann R Coll Surg Engl 2007 89(8): 770–772; S Endo et al. Jour Hospital Infection 2007 (67) 1: 56–61; DC Berridge et al. Br J Surg 1993 80 (11): 1379–80.  
2. Scott N & Jones H. ACA Research, Understanding the implications of changing face mask standards 2015.  
3. Morgan, David R. Mission the Point: A Review of Needlestick Injury and Occupational Risks From BloodBorne Viruses. Journal of American Biological Safety Association. 2001  
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