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Reusable cloth mask — Specification

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Blue Omnibus Ltd.
Egerton University — Department of Applied Community Development Studies
Ken Knits Ltd, Eldoret
Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM)
Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI)
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Ministry of Health
Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development
Permod Ltd.
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Vivo Active Wear Ltd.
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Reusable cloth mask — Specification

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Foreword

This Publicly Available Specification was prepared by the Ad-hoc Committee on Readymade Garments and Towels, Medical and Hygienic Textile Products under the guidance of the Standards Projects Committee, and it is in accordance with the procedures of the Kenya Bureau of Standards.

This document gives the minimum specifications of a reusable cloth mask to be used in Kenya during the current COVID-19 pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Reusable cloth mask acts as means to slow the spread of infection through droplets when someone coughs or sneezes in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to be maintained.

Reusable cloth mask should not be placed on young children under age 2, or anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

During the preparation of this standard, reference was made to the following documents:

KS 2636:2016, Surgical mask — Specification.

KS 541-1, Woven fabrics for uniforms — Part 1: Cotton, man-made fibres and blends.

Acknowledgement is hereby made for the assistance derived from these sources.

Reusable cloth mask — Specification

1 Scope

This Kenya Publicly Available Specification specifies requirements and test methods for reusable cloth masks for general public use.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

KS ISO 1833, *Textiles — Quantitative chemical analysis*

KS ISO 3801, *Textiles — Woven fabrics — Determination of mass per unit length and mass per unit area*

KS ISO 4921, *Knitting — Basic concepts*

KS ISO 7211-2, *Woven fabrics — Construction — Methods of analysis — Part 2: Determination of number of threads per unit length*

KS ISO 13934-1, *Textiles — Tensile properties of fabrics — Part 1: Determination of maximum force and elongation at maximum force using the strip*

KS ISO 22198, *Textiles — Fabrics — Determination of width and length*

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

4 Requirements

4.1 Materials

All materials used in the composition of a reusable cloth mask shall be free from polythene materials, latex and glass.

4.1.1 General

4.1.2 Mask layers

4.1.2.1 The reusable cloth mask shall be made of two layers of fabrics. The requirements for each layer shall be as given in Table 1 when tested in accordance with the test methods prescribed therein.

4.1.2.2 These layers comprise an outer layer and an absorption layer. The reusable cloth mask shall cover the middle of the nose to the bottom of chin.

4.1.2.3 The top and bottom of the reusable cloth mask shall be finished. The tying tape shall have a minimum nominal length of 380 mm. A synthetic elastomeric material tape of width 5 mm may be provided to

attach the mask over the ears of the wearer. The length of elastic tape shall be such that the elastic fits comfortably over the ears of the wearer.

Table 1 — Requirements for reusable cloth mask layers

S/N	Characteristic		Requirement, min.	Test method
i.	Fibre composition			KS ISO 1833
	1 st layer (outermost)		100% polyester, 100 % cotton or blend of cotton and polyester	
	2 nd layer		100 % cotton	
ii.	Mass per unit area, g/m², max.			KS ISO 3801
	Woven fabrics	1 st layer (outermost)	150	
		2 nd layer		
	Knitted single jersey fabrics	1 st Layer (outermost)	200	
		2 nd Layer		
	iii.	Threads per cm, min.		
Woven fabrics		1 st layer (outermost)	Ends 40, Picks 25	
		2 nd layer	Ends 30, Picks 20	
Knitted single jersey fabrics		Wales per cm	12	KS ISO 4921
		Courses per cm	18	

4.1.3 Tape

The tensile strength of attachment of the tape to the cloth mask shall be at least 20 N when tested in accordance with KS ISO 13934-1.

4.2 Workmanship

The reusable cloth mask shall be free from defects that affect their appearance and serviceability and free from marks, holes, spots or stains incurred in the making up. The masks shall be manufactured under hygienic conditions.

4.3 Design and size

The finished dimensions of the reusable cloth mask shall be as specified in Table 2 when tested in accordance with KS ISO 22198.

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Table 1 — Dimensions for reusable cloth mask when in use

Characteristic	Young children (2 – 4 years)	Children (4 – 12 years)	Teens, adults
Width, mm, min.	150	170	180
Depth, mm min.	80	120	160

5 Packaging

The following packaging requirements shall apply for the reusable cloth masks:

- a) Reusable cloth masks shall be packed in the same size in a suitable packaging material.
- b) The packaging shall be free from contaminants.

6 Labelling

The following information shall be legibly and indelibly marked on delivery packages:

- a) Manufacturers name and address;
- b) Country of origin;
- c) Size or age group in accordance with Table 2;
- d) Number of masks packaged;
- e) The words "Not for surgical use";
- f) The words "Wash with soap and water before use"; and
- g) Declaration of fibre composition.

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