Bureau de normalisation du Québec

ATTESTATION DOCUMENT
BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17
M1 (2021-03-11)

Document Questions and Answers

Bureau de normalisation du Québec

I am a manufacturer or distributor

PROCEDURE FOR CONFORMITY ATTESTATION

Question 1:
What changes were made to the BNQ 1922-900 attestation program through Amendment 1 published on March 11, 2021?

The main changes brought about by Amendment 1 are listed below. You may download the document BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-12-17 M1 (2021-03-11) from the BNQ's website. Note that for the English version, the changes have been included in the document which is not the case for the French version.

- Chapter 3 Definitions (p. 5), the definition of lot has been modified and the new version is provided in Question 9.
- Chapter A.2 Test Principle (p. 21), modifications have been made to the second paragraph concerning the superficial velocity during the test.
- Chapter A.4 Equipment (p. 22), point d) has been modified to provide the new superficial velocity.
- Table B.1 (p. 30), the sampling table has been modified based on a Special Inspection Level S-3 as shown in Table I of the standard ASQ/ANSI Z1.4-2003 (R2018). All required samples shall undergo the tests for general requirements and specific requirements to meet an AQL (Acceptance Quality Limit) established at 4%. To limit delay during laboratory testing, double the required number of samples are collected. For reusable masks, all samples collected shall be subjected to the number of cleaning cycles indicated. Following this, the general requirements apply to half the number of samples. The differential pressure tests are carried out at the CTT Group laboratories on half of the samples collected, whilst the other half are sent to the laboratories of the Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail (IRSST) for the filtration efficiency tests for particles of 20 nm to 800 nm and the filtration efficiency tests for particles of 3 µm.
- Chapter C.2, General Requirements (p. 31), Chapter C.2 has been replaced and Table C.1 has been modified.
- Chapter C.3, Specific Requirements (p. 32), Chapter C.3 has been replaced and Table C.2 has been replaced.
- Table 1, Requirements of the Attestation Document, Clause 6.2 Differential Pressure, Precision 3 – only one differential pressure measurement is made for each mask.

- Table 1, Requirements of the Attestation Document, Clause 7 Sampling for Attestation Purposes, 1st paragraph – a stratified sampling shall be performed to consider the possible variabilities of colours, corporate logos and sizes of masks forming the lot.
- Table 1, Requirements of the Attestation Document, Clause 8.1 Product Marking – application of the mark of conformity of the BNQ on masks has been made optional.

Question 2:
What is the procedure for filing an application for conformity attestation of a lot?

The main steps to be taken when filing an application to the BNQ requesting conformity attestation of a lot are as follows:

1. Download the document BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17 M1 (2021-03-11) in the section *Download Document BNQ 1922-900 and Application Form* from the BNQ's website;
2. Take note of the requirements listed in the document BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17 M1 (2021-03-11).
3. If, from the information available (for example: relevant test results from research and development activities), you believe that your product meets the requirements of the document BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17 M1 (2021-03-11), download the *Application Form* in the section *Download Document BNQ 1922-900 and Application Form.*
4. Complete, print, and sign the *Application Form*, then scan the signed form.

   NOTE — A separate application form shall be submitted for each lot of masks to be attested.

5. Assemble all the documents listed in the *Application Form*, as well as the non-refundable deposit of $2 800 (plus taxes) required by the BNQ for opening a file for a given lot.
6. Send all the documents by email to nathalie.dupont@bnq.qc.ca.

Please note that the complete procedure to be followed when filing an application for conformity attestation is described in Chapter 10 *Rules of Procedure for Conformity Attestation* in the document BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17 M1 (2021-03-11). A flow chart showing the procedure for conformity attestation is also available on the BNQ's website.

Question 3:
What are the costs involved to assess the conformity of a lot?

The fees required by the BNQ and the laboratories for assessing the conformity of each lot of masks are detailed as follows:

a) BNQ:
   - Opening of the file, examination of the documents, analysis of the test reports, and, where applicable, issuing of the attestation letter: $2 800.
   - Visit(s) for sampling purposes: an amount to be determined according to the location of the plant or warehouse.

     NOTE — These activities are billed at an hourly rate, to which are added travel expenses according to the rates in effect at the BNQ.

b) Laboratories:
   - Fees for conducting the laboratory tests, which are separate from those of the BNQ, are added to the fees mentioned above.
   - Fees that will be outlined in a written agreement between the enterprise wishing to have a certain lot of masks attested and each of the laboratories qualified to carry out the laboratory tests specified in the attestation program BNQ 1922-900.

     NOTES —

     1. Tests concerning the general requirements, cleaning cycles, and differential pressure (or breathability) are carried out at the CTT Group laboratories.
     2. Tests to assess the filtration efficiency are carried out at the IRSST laboratory.

Question 4:
How many masks are required for laboratory tests?

The number of masks to be collected, in the presence of the BNQ inspector, is variable and depends on the size of the lot of masks to be attested. All the details are available in Table B.1 of Annex B of the document BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17 M1 (2021-03-11).

Question 5:
Once the tests have been carried out at the laboratory, how long will the conformity attestation procedure take?

Once the BNQ has all the required documentation from the enterprise and the test reports from the laboratories, a maximum period of two weeks is determined for issuing the letter of attestation if the results obtained allow for the lot of masks to be declared conform to the requirements of the document BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17 M1 (2021-03-11).

Question 6:
May I use the results of tests that have already been performed on my masks?

No, it is not possible to use the results of tests already performed on the masks of a given lot. Indeed, in order to be accepted, the tests shall be carried out under the procedure described in the document BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17 M1 (2021-03-11), which requires, amongst other things, that the sampling of a given lot of masks be carried out by the enterprise in the presence of the BNQ's inspector.

Question 7: Before undertaking the steps for attestation, how can one know whether the mask achieves the level of performance necessary to meet the requirements of the document?

It is recommended that the manufacturer submit the masks to preliminary laboratory tests to assess them in relation to the requirements of the document before filing an application for attestation.

Question 8:
Is the attestation program valid only for the Quebec market or is there standardization with the other Canadian provinces?

The demand for the creation of this attestation program arose from a joint request from the Commission des normes de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CNESST) and the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) to address the needs related to masks intended for working environments in the province of Quebec. However, the other provinces can refer to it, as the BNQ's attestation program is the first of its kind in the country.

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ATTESTATION DOCUMENT BNQ 1922-900

Question 9:
What is the definition of a lot according to the document BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17 M1 (2021-03-11)?

In the document BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17 M1 (2021-03-11), the definition of a lot is as follows:

lot, n. Specified quantity of masks with the same characteristics and produced under uniform conditions, defined by the smallest quantity of a lot of raw material, and meeting the following criteria:

a) a given place of manufacture (for example: a single civic address);

b) a given design:

- pattern of the mask and head harness;
- materials, or combination or assembly of materials, provided by the same suppliers and from the same lots of raw materials;
- a given colour or an assortment of colours from the same inks, dyes, paints or other pigments and applied on the same lot of raw materials using the same process;

c) a single manufacturing process (for example: type of stitching) carried out with the same type of equipment;

d) a single finishing process carried out with the same type of equipment (for example: affixing of logos);

e) number of masks produced within a specified period of time.

Question 10:
Are there specific requirements regarding the design (for example: the choice of material, the filtering material, the number of layers, etc.) of the masks?

The direction taken by the Development Committee of the document BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17 M1 (2021-03-11) focuses on performance. Consequently, there is no requirement regarding the choice of materials to be used. This position enables enterprises to turn towards innovative rather than restrictive solutions concerning the choice of materials.

Question 11:
If a certain lot of masks marked BNQ does not pass the performance tests, how is it dealt with?

If the BNQ's mark of conformity has been affixed to the masks or to the label attached to the masks before the laboratory tests have been performed, it shall be removed from the masks or the lot of masks shall be destroyed. In the event that the BNQ's mark of conformity shall be withdrawn, the process used shall have been submitted to the BNQ at the time of application for attestation.

Question 12:
Which laboratories are recognized by the BNQ's attestation program?

The laboratories that are currently recognized to perform the tests described in the document BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17 M1 (2021-03-11) are the CTT Group laboratories and the IRSST laboratories. It is possible that other laboratories may be added to this list in the future.

I am a distributor who does not manufacture masks

Question 13:
How does the conformity attestation procedure differ if the application is made by a manufacturer or a distributor of masks?

The conformity attestation procedure is the same for both manufacturers and distributors of masks. The information and documents required to file an application for conformity attestation shall be provided to the BNQ by anyone wishing to file an application.

However, the procedure may differ at the stage when use of the mark of conformity is granted by the BNQ. Thus, if the distributor wishes to affix the BNQ's mark of conformity on the masks, a bipartite contract shall be signed by the BNQ and the distributor – as is the case when a manufacturer files an application. On the other hand, if it is more desirable for the mark of conformity to be affixed by the manufacturer at the time of manufacture, a tripartite contract shall be signed by the BNQ and the distributor, together with the manufacturer.

I am an employer or a worker

SUPPLY

Question 14:

How can I obtain masks attested by the BNQ?

The list of enterprises holding an attestation letter issued by the BNQ is published on the BNQ's website. As of March 16, 2021, no enterprise holds an attestation letter issued under the attestation program BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17 M1 (2021-03-11).

I am a citizen

SUPPLY

Question 15:

How can I obtain masks attested by the BNQ?

The list of enterprises holding an attestation letter issued by the BNQ is published on the BNQ's website. As of March 16, 2021, no enterprise holds an attestation letter issued under the attestation program BNQ 1922-900 / 2020-03-17 M1 (2021-03-11).