



Indian Standard IS 16289:2014 - Your Guide to Reliable Surgical Face Masks

In healthcare settings, surgical face masks play a critical role in preventing the transmission of infections between healthcare professionals and patients. Consumers expect high-quality face masks that are effective in **filtering bacteria, comfortable to wear, and resistant to fluid splashes**, ensuring both **safety and comfort**.

Surgical face masks, defined under **IS 16289:2014** by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), are designed to create a barrier to reduce the **transmission of infective agents** during **surgical procedures**. This standard outlines essential requirements for **bacterial filtration efficiency (BFE), breathability (differential pressure), and fluid resistance**. These performance standards ensure masks are capable of filtering out harmful bacteria, allowing for **easy breathing** while **preventing fluid penetration**, which can protect healthcare providers from splashes of potentially contaminated liquids.

The standard classifies masks into three performance categories, from **basic to advanced fluid-resistant** masks. Each category has **specific filtration and splash resistance requirements**, verified through rigorous testing methods. Additionally, masks must be marked with product details such as the class of mask, manufacturer's name, and date of manufacture to help ensure quality and traceability.

IS 16289:2014 provides a structured sampling and testing protocol to ensure each mask batch meets the standard's criteria, reinforcing safety and performance consistency.

In summary, **IS 16289:2014** assures that surgical face masks meet high standards for bacterial filtration, breathability, and fluid resistance. By adhering to these guidelines, manufacturers ensure reliable masks for healthcare settings. For added assurance, look for the BIS Standard Mark when selecting surgical masks to verify compliance with these rigorous standards, ensuring safety and quality in critical medical environments.