



## “Maskne” – Is your mask damaging your skin?

Masks and frequent handwashing are crucial in the fight against COVID-19, but medical authorities and researchers across the world have noticed an increase of certain skin diseases and dermatological damage, such as contact dermatitis or eczema, acne, rosacea, seborrhoea or atopic dermatitis are on the rise, and they can be aggravated by pre-existing skin conditions or the use of certain cosmetic products.

### Differentiation: the key to success

Masks have become an unavoidable part of our everyday life. Given the diversity of masks on the market today and the increasing number of companies producing and commercialising these products worldwide, “product differentiation” has become paramount for brand owners and retailers to allow them to stand out among competition.

#### **Eurofins against the coronavirus – Let’s also protect our skin**

Eurofins offers compliance testing and certification services for masks, gowns and further medical textile products, as well as hand sanitizers and antiseptics (see [www.eurofins.com/COVID-19-product-testing](http://www.eurofins.com/COVID-19-product-testing)). Our new service pack, however, goes the extra mile to provide the differentiation your product needs:

- Technical Compliance File
- In-vivo skin tolerance studies
- Safety and efficacy claim substantiation

### Technical Compliance File

The TCF is a full documentary review to ensure your product meets the regulatory requirements of the destination markets. It includes a technical and regulatory validation report or, alternatively, a corrective action plan if any nonconformity is identified.

### *In-vivo* skin tolerance studies

Many aspects of mask wearing can have negative effects on skin:

- Occlusive effects, like heat and moisture
- Abrasion of the skin caused by the mask rubbing on the face
- Inappropriate material of the mask layer in contact with the skin
- Eventual allergenic agents in the material composition
- The wearer’s own skin conditions
- The reaction of the cosmetic product (foundation, lipstick, cream or other) used by the wearer

These negative effects can be avoided, however, by in-vivo testing your mask prior to commercialization.

### **In-vivo tests**

	Aim	Advantages
<b>Patch tests</b> (applied on the skin for 48 hours)	Assessment of the skin's compatibility with different products and product combinations (textile/cosmetics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows simultaneous testing of different textile products separately or in combination with different cosmetics products</li> <li>Quick comparative results to check the irritation or skin damage level of each individual product or textile/cosmetic product combination</li> </ul>
<b>Hypoallergenicity test</b>	Verification of the absence of any potential allergenic product or material and skin compatibility check	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows simultaneous testing of different textile products separately or in combination with different cosmetics products</li> <li>Supports relevant product claims</li> </ul>
<b>Use test under dermatological control</b>	Product suitability test under normal conditions of use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subjective evaluation of the product's quality and efficacy, including irritation and any other unpleasant feeling, as reported by real users of different skin types</li> <li>Supports relevant product claims</li> </ul>

## **Safety and efficacy claim substantiation**

Eurofins' bespoke testing protocols include clinical studies conducted in a controlled environment by highly skilled technicians, including dermatologists and toxicologists. Chemical tests are additionally performed where applicable, to prove the claims you want to display on your product.

By thoroughly checking the efficacy and dermatological tolerance of your product, you can provide confidence for consumers by displaying guarantees on the packaging, such as:

- Tested under dermatological control
- Suitable for sensitive skin
- Suitable for atopic-prone skin
- Non-comedogenic product
- Maintains the skin barrier function
- Respects the natural skin moisturization
- Hypoallergenic product

If you want your mask to stand out from the competition, Eurofins is a one-stop shop, covering all the mandatory testing scope and going the extra mile for our clients.

## **Quality Assurance and Control throughout the Supply Chain**

Regardless of your role in the supply chain, you need to safeguard the reputation of your brand, or that of your client. From suppliers' assessments, to R&D support, regulatory guidance and supply chain mapping, all the way through compliance and bespoke testing, QC inspections, failure analysis and market surveillance, we cover every stage of your product's quality journey.

