



Labour Department (Headquarters)

勞工處 (總處)

Your reference 來函編號 :

Our reference 本處檔案編號 : ( ) in LD OHS/1-55/18/1

Tel. Number 電話號碼 : 2852 4041

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16 May 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Recommendation on purchasing 3D masks for use by employees**

Due to the current situation of COVID-19 in Hong Kong, employees are generally required to wear masks at work as a preventive measure for infection control. However, wearing a mask to work during the hot summer months, especially when doing physical work outdoors, can make mask-wearing employees feel stuffy and uncomfortable due to the heat and humidity.

The Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC) recently published a study on the effects of mask breathability and comfort on the physiology of manual workers. Based on the results, most workers consider that wearing three-dimensional (3D) masks (or fish-mouth shaped masks) is more comfortable than wearing flat masks. In addition, the lower the pressure difference ( $\Delta P$ ) value of the mask, the better the breathability and the more comfortable it is to wear. From the perspective of preventing disease transmission, wearing a comfortable mask can reduce the chance of workers taking off or pulling down the mask due to stuffiness and avoid affecting the infection control effectiveness. For details of the above research report, please refer to the OSHC website (<https://www.oshc.org.hk/tchi/main/news/FaceMaskResearch/index.html>).

In response to the findings of the OSHC, the Labour Department recommends that contractors/employers purchase 3D masks as part of the stock so that employees can choose to use them, especially for those who need to perform physical work in a hot and humid environment. If the 3D masks available for purchase are marked with  $\Delta P$  value, you can choose to buy those with a lower  $\Delta P$  value ( $\leq 3$ ) which indicates better breathability.

Should you need further information, please contact Labour  
Department at telephone: 2852 4041 or email: [ohd-d@labour.gov.hk](mailto:ohd-d@labour.gov.hk)

Yours Faithfully,



(Wong Chi-ching, Kevin)  
for Commissioner for Labour