



N-95 and KN-95 Masks: What's The Difference??

The Standard of Certification

The N-95 and KN-95 masks are similar, but there are significant differences. K-95 is the Chinese standard, whereas N-95 is the U.S. standard. Both are made from similar woven fibers and are required to filter out and trap 95% of microscopic 0.3-micron particles floating in the air. However, the testing and resulting certification are where the differences occur¹.

N-95 masks are required to pass strict inspection and certification by the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH); conversely, the KN-95 mask must meet Chinese Government requirements. Indeed there are differences, and the N-95 requirements are more stringent, which results in a mask that has better inhalation performance¹.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has caused a shortage of PPE. The KN-95 masks are more reliably available than the N-95, which prompted the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to provide manufacture approval of KN-95 masks through an emergency authorization for foreign certification; so long as the filtration requirements are met, and documentation is provided to authenticate the materials used in manufacturing.

Similarly, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a response to COVID-19 is allowing the use of KN-95 masks as an alternative to the N-95¹.

The full article is linked here: ¹<https://www.foxnews.com/health/n95-kn95-masks-whats-the-difference>

Additional information can be found by visiting:

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/faqs-shortages-surgical-masks-and-gowns-during-covid-19-pandemic>

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