

## Supplying world-leading face masks to the medical industry

Protecting you  
and the people  
around you



### High-efficiency Surgical Masks for the Protection and Comfort of Medical Professionals

The availability of highly efficient surgical face masks in a global market where the frequency of pandemics and airborne contaminants is increasing but unpredictable, is more critical than ever. So-called 'x-factor events' are causing unpredictable demand and hospital buyers need a product that is economical, of the highest filtration efficiency, and which can be readily supplied to meet spikes in demand. Surgical face masks with high filtration standards are a critical component in a hospital's strategy to protect clinicians and patients from airborne infection. Effective use of high quality masks can help reduce the cost and impact of viruses. Irema's surgical face masks are supplied to hospitals through some of the world's leading hospital suppliers. We are renowned for the quality of our products, our ability to respond to changes in demand, and for our short order fulfillment timelines.

#### Our Partners choice - Dependable Supply

We work with you to match your supply chain requirements and, using lean manufacturing processes, we can meet your unscheduled demand better and more cost-effectively.

Irema is based in Europe, meaning our lead-time for order fulfillment is much shorter, and there are no import duties and taxes or customs delays to worry about. We also manufacture in Thailand to the highest standard to support our global customers.

And because we manufacture our own filtration media, we can ensure the quality and reliability of supply.

#### Irema – the choice for medical professionals

With ever-longer surgery hours, medical professionals want face masks that don't cause irritation or slip and are comfortable to wear. In evaluation tests, hospital staff opt for masks that don't get in the way of their performance. They recognise the value of high quality non-woven materials including Irema's unique filter media in contributing to a comfortable wear.

Masks continue to be important in patient protection and, increasingly, are recognised as providing the healthcare professional with protection as well.

#### Why Choose Irema?

##### Experienced European Manufacturer

- **Responsiveness** – Our lean manufacturing process enables us to quickly respond to spikes in demand. We typically can meet orders 50% sooner than our competitors from lower cost regions, saving you money in the longer run.
- **Our Culture** – We're straightforward and customer-focused in everything we do. Our partners will tell you we are responsive, trustworthy and easy to do business with

##### World-class Product

- **Quality** – Regular independent testing to meet rigorous EN standards
- **Comfortable** – Special inner non-woven causes no irritation, and reduces slippage
- **Innovation** - We are innovative, manufacturing our own filter media and leading Research & Development into next generation products.

##### Continued Investment in Innovation

- **ERP Integration** – We can view our partners ERP systems directly, enabling us to plan production to meet your requirements
- **Investment in Lean Manufacturing processes** – Enables us to respond to demand spikes from unforeseen virus outbreaks
- **Investment in Product development** - We continue to invest in the development of innovative features for our masks and filter media

## Face Masks in Global Pandemics – A Case Study

Global health events like SARS and Avian Flu are unpredictable and demanding. Each year, your need for surgical masks will change and reliability of supply is critical.

### Irema's response to the Avian flu pandemic

When the swine flu pandemic broke in Mexico in April 2009, Irema was producing 1.2 million face masks per week on a 5-day shift cycle output. These masks were being used in general medical and dental applications.

As governments throughout Europe and the world put together their emergency response plans, consideration was given to making face masks available to the general population. As Europe's leading face mask manufacturer, Irema was immediately involved in supporting these plans. With the urgency of the situation of paramount importance, production capacity became critical as manufacturers throughout the world struggled to meet demand.

Irema immediately maximized the capacity on its 5 existing production lines and within 3 weeks, had moved to a 24/7 operation making a further 1 million face masks per week available. This increase in production output in such a short timeframe was achieved because of the training and flexibility of the Irema workforce and the support of its engineering staff. Further capacity was added in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2009 with the addition of 2 further production lines in the Thailand facility.

In total, Irema produced over 50 million face masks that were supplied to governments in England, Finland and Spain as well as to other response organizations.

The swine flu pandemic again highlighted the need for preparation at all levels throughout society. Our ability to react and help prevent the spread of such viruses will continue to be of critical importance. Irema will continue to play a vital part in any Risk management strategy into the future.

## The importance of filtration efficiency

Filtration efficiency is the most critical aspect of a face mask in the prevention of infections and disbursement of airborne viruses such as H1N1 and other variants of the Flu virus. The filtration efficiency of our products are frequently tested for compliance with the highest EN standards by Nelson Laboratories, an independent testing firm. Surgical face masks which have high filtration efficiency have been shown in a number of independent research studies to be as effective as respirators in the protection of both clinicians and patients from airborne viruses such as the flu virus.



## Notable Customers



## About Irema

### A trusted partner in supplying surgical face masks.

Irema is a trusted manufacturer of high quality face masks, supplying global brand leaders for over 25 years. Our face mask products meet the highest European Standards for efficiency and filtration and are designed with the users comfort in mind.

Our global distribution and reseller partners recognise Irema for our innovative and lean manufacturing processes which enable us to respond to spikes in supply demands and unique product requests.

**Web:** [www.irema.com](http://www.irema.com)

**Tel:** +353 63 98544

**Fax:** +353 63 98799

**Email:** [info@irema.ie](mailto:info@irema.ie)

Irema Ireland  
Killmallock Business Park  
Killmallock  
Co. Limerick  
Ireland