Guidance on the Use of Face Coverings & Masks

This document is designed only as guidance and general reference for Ohio manufacturers. For specific questions relating exclusively to your operations, please work with your internal experts and state/local public health authorities.

Overview

In late April 2020, Gov. Mike DeWine rolled out his plans to gradually re-open Ohio's business community. Under the re-opening plan, manufacturers that are not already operating may re-open Monday, May 4. The governor provided these five safety protocols for all businesses, as well as additional safety requirements specific to manufacturing. (These apply to all Ohio manufacturers, regardless of whether they were open during the stay-at-home order.)

Under Ohio’s re-opening plan, the use of face coverings by employees is mandatory, except in the following cases:

- Facial coverings in the work setting are prohibited by law or regulation;
- Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
- Facial coverings are not advisable for health reasons;
- Facial coverings are in violation of the business’s documented safety policies;
- Facial coverings are not required when the employee works alone in an assigned work area;
- There is a functional (practical) reason for an employee not to wear a facial covering in the workplace.

Businesses must provide written justification, upon request explaining why an employee is not required to wear a facial covering in the workplace. At a minimum, facial coverings (masks) should be cloth/fabric and cover an individual’s nose, mouth, and chin.

(Continued)
Read Ohio’s extended stay-at-home order, which includes safety protocols under the administration’s re-opening plan.

For specific information on face coverings, see the Ohio Department of Health’s FAQs on cloth masks/face coverings in the workplace.

For more on Ohio’s re-opening plan, visit the Responsible Restart Ohio website.

**Guidance Resources**

- OMA’s April 29 webinar.
- Ohio Department of Health’s FAQs on cloth masks/face coverings in the workplace.
- Ohio Department of Health’s guidance on face coverings.
- CDC on homemade cloth face coverings.
- CDC’s questions and answers on face coverings.
- CDC’s interim guidance for conserving and extending filtering facepiece respirator supply in non-health care sectors.