

URGENT DECISION 1

m.25.7. Mask

- a) The **mask** must be made with meshes (space between the wires) of maximum 2.1 mm and from wires with a minimum gauge of 1 mm diameter. The mask must include two different safety systems at the rear.
- b) Masks, at all weapons, must be made in accordance with the **safety standards** described in Annexe A to these Rules and must carry the quality label specified in those standards.
- c) When the **checks** are carried out the person responsible for them may, if in doubt, ensure that the mesh of the mask, both at the front and at the sides, is able to withstand, without permanent deformation, the introduction of a conical instrument, the angle of the surface of the cone being at 4° to the axis and at a pressure of 12 kg.
- d) A mask which does not comply with the safety requirements laid down in this article will be rendered **visibly unusable** by the weapon checking personnel or the Referee in the presence of the person who presented the mask to the weapon check or the team captain of the fencer concerned.
- e) The **bib** of the mask must be made with cloth resistant to 1600 Newtons.
- f) The mask must contain **two different safety systems** at the rear of the mask, with the two ends of the straps of the systems firmly affixed to the two sides of the mask. These straps **must meet the following requirements** ~~may be elastic or of any other material that may be~~ approved by the S.E.M.I. Commission :

Mask with metallic tongue

- The central band (strap) should not be less than 45 mm wide.
- The strap must be positioned low enough across the rear of the cervical region that the position of the strap on the head ensures that the mask cannot slide off.
- The band must be in solid material : when stretched the material should not sustain permanent plastic deformation and should quickly return to its original shape and size
- The fastening system must be doubled: it must be closed with a double security system (this means that the Velcro™ has to be attached at least twice).
- The Velcro™ must have a minimum breaking strain of 750 N/cm
- The tags to which the strap is attached by Velcro must be secured to each side of the mask with the same breaking strain.

Mask without metallic tongue

- The position of the main strap must be low enough to ensure that the mask cannot slide off; the correct distance should be decided by the manufacturer (typically 25/30 mm).
- The strap must incorporate 3 fixing points.
- The use of a magnetic strap, already existing, remains mandatory.

ANNEX A (pp. 72/73english ed.)

EQUIPMENT

2. STANDARDS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF FENCING MASKS

2.2. SHAPE, DIMENSIONS AND METHODS OF PRODUCTION OF THE ELEMENTS OF FENCING MASKS

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF FENCING MASKS

4. Essential constituent elements

The essential elements of the mask, as shown in Figure A.3, are:

- (a) frontal grille protecting the face;
- (b) lateral grille protecting the neck and the nape of the neck;
- (c) strip for reinforcement and to connect the grilles;
- (d) bibs.

The other parts, such as the interior protecting facings, padding, elastic bands and the safety retaining devices, whose production is entrusted to the manufacturer, must entirely conform to the conditions required for their use.

In particular, the rear fixing devices must ensure that the mask is located in the correct position on the fencer's head and that it remains in a perfect position, even after blows or [shocks \(see details in M.25.7\)](#).

[Mechanical systems for this rear device are not allowed at the moment](#)

Schedule of the replacement process:

1. The replacement of the fastening system of the old model of masks will take place during the season 2017-2018.
2. During the season 2017-2018, the use of masks with the old model of protection fastening system will be permitted at World Cups (juniors and seniors), Zonal Championships 2018 (juniors and seniors) and GP's.
3. The athletes taking part in the 2018 World Championships (J&C in Verona and senior in Wuxi) must use masks with the new fastening system
4. From the beginning of the season 2018-2019, the use of masks with the old model fastening system will not be allowed.