

Information on Covid-19

Wednesday, April 28th, 2021

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can employers procure protective face masks and other personal protective equipment for employees present or returning to the workplace?

Public authorities recommend that companies plan a preventive stock of masks covering a period of 10 weeks.

In addition to the measures taken since the beginning of the sanitary crisis to increase the production of personal protective equipment at a national level, in particular protective face masks and hydroalcoholic gel, action is being taken by the Directorate General for Enterprise (Ministry for the Economy and Finance) to facilitate the supply for companies.

Where can companies buy protective face masks for their employees?

Protective face masks “for the general public”

Following the opinions of the National Agency for the Safety of Medicinal Products and Health Products (ANSM) and the High Council for Public Health (HSCP), the latest of which was published on January 18th, 2021, a new category of masks reserved for non-medical uses has been defined:

- «General public» masks filtering more than 90%: These individual masks can be offered to professionals and also to the general population, especially when used by individuals having occasional contact with colleagues in the workplace or third parties in an immediate working environment. These «general public» masks are recognizable by the corresponding logo which must appear on their packaging or on their instructions. Their filtration and breathability performance must also be obvious on the product packaging.

These face masks can be purchased via the following online marketplaces:

- [Marketplace « Stopcovid19 »](#)

Supported by the French Ministry for the Economy and Finance, this platform enables manufacturers and distributors of essential products and equipment (personal protective equipment such as masks, hydroalcoholic gel, aprons, etc.), as well as their service providers and subcontractors, to market their offer to health professionals, food distributors and all companies involved in the fight against COVID-19 and needing to protect their staff.

- [Marketplace « Savoir-faire ensemble »](#)
- The employer may also use one of the manufacturers of “general public” masks listed on the [DGE website](#)

Sanitary masks

Stocks of sanitary masks (in particular FFP2 and surgical masks) are primarily intended for healthcare professionals and health institutes.

For the purchase of these sanitary masks, international sourcing via foreign suppliers remains the solution that companies must prioritize.

Companies can purchase directly from foreign producers in compliance with the regulatory standards for placing the products concerned on the European market (CE marking).

Imported masks are no longer subject to requisition.

The Directorate General for Enterprise (Ministry for the Economy and Finance) is working to facilitate contact between mask importers and French buyers, and to help companies find logistical solutions and remove any obstacle.

Should you have any questions, please send a message to the following address: masques.dge@finances.gouv.fr

Regarding the customs aspects, companies can consult the information file published by French customs authorities, along with European norms in force: [click here](#)

Companies may also contact the regional economic action hubs of the French customs authorities for any assistance needed to prepare these imports. [Click here](#)

Where can companies buy hydroalcoholic gel?

The marketplace [Stopcodiv19.fr](https://stopcodiv19.fr) also allows companies to purchase large quantities of hydroalcoholic gel and solutions.

In addition, the Directorate General for Enterprise (DGE), in conjunction with all the industry federations concerned, publishes daily an extended list of producers and their production capacity of industrial quantities in order to make supplies more fluid.

Contact: gelcoronavirus.dge@finances.gouv.fr

For more information, please visit the official French government website:

[Approvisionnement masques et gel hydroalcoolique](#)

[Masques à usages non sanitaires](#)