Summary from CSIR-NPL, India

CSIR- National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), being National Metrology Institute (NMI) of India, is engaged in development of National Standards of Measurements and their dissemination to users through traceable testing and calibration services. The sudden novel **COVID-19** outbreak during last few weeks has thrown an unprecedented challenge resulting into nationwide lockdowns, health hazards and precious loss of lives.Under this unprecedented situation, CSIR-NPL is playing its active role wherever possible working on various aspects of societal importance.

Currently, CSIR-NPL is supporting various Biomedical Laboratories in the country by providing certification services of Infrared (IR) Thermometers, Blood Pressure Measuring Instruments, calibration of Ventilator Testers, Gas Flow Analyzers, Infusion Device Analyzers, Infusion Pumps, Defibrillators, etc. In order to support the medical industries, hospitals, biomedical laboratories in their endeavor to manufacturing and testing of PPE like Masks, Hand Gloves, Hand Sanitizers, Ventilators, etc., CSIR-NPL intends to establish the complete testing facilities for the above items. We have also taken initiatives and are working towards setting up testing facilities for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This would help to some extent as the demand for these items is sky rocketing and there are not adequate reliable testing agencies / organisations available.

Lately, we did not have testing facilities for PPEs. Although complete testing of these devices requires huge infrastructures, money and time, therefore, **in** present scenario, CSIR-NPL is using some of its existing facilities and provide testing and calibration of various parameters including pressure, flow and volume, time, dimension, temperature etc. The various items/ instruments required for these testing facilities which are not available in NPL have been identified and efforts have been initiated to procure / fabricate / develop on urgent / emergent basis to complete the Testing & Calibration Facilities as per national and international standards. Also contributing hugely in various committees of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), National Accreditation Board of Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), Legal Metrology for the preparation of documentary standards, technical specifications, assessment etc. at various level.

Also provided traceability to various industries and calibration laboratories engaged in testing of PPE and medical devices. Also working on the joint development of such devices (Face Shields, Masks, Ventilator, UV Devices etc.) in collaboration with industries.

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