CLAIMS

1. A directional adjustment unit for a headgear for a respiratory mask, comprising:

a movable frictional engagement member, the frictional engagement member having an aperture forming a cavity extending through the frictional engagement member, wherein the aperture is arranged to receive a filament of a strap of the headgear therethrough such that the filament follows a filament path through the directional adjustment unit, wherein the frictional engagement member in a first configuration provides a disengaged configuration with respect to the filament, and in a second configuration provides an engaged configuration with respect to the filament;

the directional adjustment unit further comprising a filament guide configured to guide the filament as it passes through the directional adjustment unit, the filament guide being configured to engage the filament to restrain the filament against bending of the filament in the directional adjustment unit at a location in which it engages the filament;

wherein the frictional engagement member is mounted on the directional adjustment unit such that the frictional engagement member can move relative to the directional adjustment unit along a predetermined elongate path which extends in a direction orthogonal to the filament path, when the at least one frictional engagement member moves from the disengaged configuration to the engaged configuration; and

wherein the or each frictional engagement member is movable around a respective pivot axis and wherein the first configuration comprises a first pivoted configuration, and the second configuration comprises a second pivoted configuration.

2. The directional adjustment unit of claim 1, comprising a plurality of filament guides, wherein the frictional engagement member is located between a pair of the filament guides.

3. The directional adjustment unit of claim 1 or 2, comprising at least two frictional engagement members, wherein the or at least one filament guide is provided at a position intermediate the two frictional engagement members.

4. The directional adjustment unit of any one of the preceding claims, wherein each pivot axis is movable with respect to the directional adjustment unit.

5. The directional adjustment unit of claim 4 wherein each pivot axis is movable independently of the other pivot axis.

6. The directional adjustment unit of claim 4 or claim 5 wherein the directional adjustment unit comprises a base, wherein each pivot axis is movable toward and away from the base of the directional adjustment unit.

7. The directional adjustment unit of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the directional adjustment unit comprises a mounting slot, the mounting slot comprising a retaining space for movably retaining a follower to movably retain the frictional engagement member on or in the directional adjustment unit.

8. The directional adjustment unit of claim 7, wherein the or each frictional engagement member has a base member, the aperture being spaced from the base member, wherein the base member comprises the follower.

9. The directional adjustment unit of any one of claims claim 7 to 8, wherein the directional adjustment unit comprises at least two mounting slots, each mounting slot having a retaining space for movably retaining a respective part of the base member of a frictional engagement member.

10. The directional adjustment unit of any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein each mounting slot is sized so as to allow translational movement of follower within the mounting slot along a predetermined path, whilst being retained; and/or is elongate when the directional adjustment unit is viewed from the side

11. The directional adjustment unit of claim 10, wherein the mounting slot:

a. extends in a substantially vertical direction, when the directional adjustment unit is viewed from the side; and/or

b. has at least one narrower section to resist the base member from moving past said narrowing section; and/or

c. is sized so as to allow the follower to pivot around its pivot axis within the slot.

12. The directional adjustment unit of any one of the preceding claims wherein the or each frictional engagement member are mounted in the directional adjustment unit for both:

a. pivotal movement relative to the directional adjustment unit about a pivot axis; and

b. translational movement relative to the directional adjustment unit in a direction orthogonal to the pivot axis, along a predetermined elongate path extending away from the pivot axis, when the unit is viewed along the pivot axis.

13. The directional adjustment unit of claim 12 wherein the predetermined elongate path is defined by an elongate mounting slot in one of the frictional engagement member and a housing of the directional adjustment unit, and a follower on the other of the frictional engagement member and a housing of the directional adjustment unit, the follower being received in the mounting slot.

14. The directional adjustment unit of any one of the preceding claims wherein when the or each frictional engagement member is in the disengaged configuration with respect to the filament, the filament can move through the directional adjustment unit with a first resistance to that movement between the filament and the frictional engagement members, and wherein when each frictional engagement member is in the engaged configuration with respect to the filament, the filament can move through the directional adjustment unit with a second resistance to that movement between the filament and the frictional engagement members, the second resistance being greater than the first resistance.