However, it has been found that leaks can occur even when using sealing borders of the kind known from WO 2004/105880 A1, which leaks may endanger the person wearing the mask or protective suit.

US 2013/0025589 A1 discloses a balaclava of the type mentioned at the outset, in which leaks between the balaclava and the mask body are intended to be avoided or at any rate reduced. For this purpose, pockets are provided in the area of the border, which pockets contain an elastically deformable, approximately rectangular filler with straight edges. When a tensile force is applied to the border, the sealing elements adapt to the supporting contour, i.e. to any irregularities of the surface, such that leaks are avoided, for example of the kind that can occur when the border is stretched tightly across indentations.

However, particularly when the wearer moves his head, the sealing of the balaclava with respect to the mask body may become inadequate at certain locations, such that hazardous substances in the environment can get into the interior of the balaclava or of the protective suit and endanger the wearer.

The object of the present invention is to make available a balaclava, or a CBRN protective suit with a balaclava, by which it is possible to ensure reliable and permanent gas tightness between the mask and the balaclava.

According to an aspect, there is provided a balaclava in particular for a CBRN protective suit or the like, provided for use in combination with a breathing mask or gas mask having a mask body, with a hood having a viewing opening, wherein the viewing opening is delimited by a border, and the border is designed to bear on the mask body when the breathing mask or gas mask is being worn, wherein the viewing opening has an upper opening area and an opposite lower opening area, and also two mutually opposite lateral opening areas, wherein at least one protruding, elastic sealing element for bearing flat and in a gas-tight manner on the mask body is provided on the inside of the hood adjacent to the border in the area of at least one lateral opening area, and wherein the edge of the sealing element directed toward the border has the shape of an arc segment and is adapted at least substantially to the profile of the border when the balaclava is being worn, characterized in that the sealing element is designed as a gel pad.

In a balaclava of the type mentioned at the outset, the aforementioned object is essentially achieved, according to the invention, by the fact that the edge of the sealing element directed toward the border has the shape of an arc segment and is adapted at least substantially to the profile of the border when the balaclava is being worn.

~~Further amended claims~~Claims:

1. A balaclava ~~(1)~~, in particular for a CBRN protective suit ~~(2)~~ or the like, provided for use in combination with a breathing mask or gas mask ~~(3)~~ having a mask body ~~(4)~~, with a hood ~~(5)~~ having a viewing opening ~~(6)~~, wherein the viewing opening ~~(6)~~ is delimited by a border ~~(7)~~, and the border ~~(7)~~ is designed to bear on the mask body ~~(4)~~ when the breathing mask or gas mask ~~(3)~~ is being worn, wherein the viewing opening ~~(6)~~ has an upper opening area ~~(8)~~ and an opposite lower opening area ~~(9)~~, and also two mutually opposite lateral opening areas ~~(10, 11)~~, wherein at least one protruding, elastic sealing element ~~(13)~~ for bearing flat and in a gas-tight manner on the mask body ~~(4)~~ is provided on the inside ~~(12)~~ of the hood ~~(5)~~ adjacent to the border ~~(7)~~ in the area of at least one lateral opening area ~~(10, 11),~~ and wherein the edge ~~(16)~~ of the sealing element ~~(13)~~ directed toward the border ~~(7)~~ has the shape of an arc segment and is adapted at least substantially to the profile of the border ~~(7)~~ when the balaclava ~~(1)~~ is being worn, characterized in that the sealing element ~~(13)~~ is designed as a gel pad.

2. The balaclava as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the edge ~~(16)~~ directed toward the border ~~(7)~~ has the shape of an arc of a circle, and in that, preferably, the radius of the arc is between 5 cm and 15 cm, preferably between 7 cm and 12 cm, and particularly preferably between 8 cm and 10 cm.

3. The balaclava as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the edge of the sealing element ~~(13)~~ directed away from the border ~~(7)~~ has the shape of an arc of an ellipse.

4. The balaclava as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the lengthwise extent of the sealing element ~~(13)~~ is between 2 cm and 20 cm, preferably between 5 cm and 15 cm, more preferably between 7 cm and 12 cm, particularly preferably between 8 cm and 10 cm, and/or in that the maximum transverse extent of the sealing element ~~(13)~~ is between 1 cm and 12 cm, preferably between 2 cm and 10 cm, more preferably between 3 cm and 7 cm, particularly preferably between 4 cm and 6 cm.

5. The balaclava as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the sealing element ~~(13)~~ has an asymmetrical shape with respect to its longitudinal direction.

6. The balaclava as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the sealing element ~~(13)~~ has a crescent shape.

7. The balaclava as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the sealing element ~~(13)~~ is provided at least in the cheek area ~~(14)~~ of the hood ~~(5)~~, and/or in that the sealing element ~~(13)~~ extends into the upper and/or lower opening area ~~(8, 9)~~, or in that the sealing element ~~(13)~~ extends circumferentially around the viewing opening ~~(6)~~.

8. The balaclava as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the gel pad has a polyurethane gel and/or is produced by casting and has an outer skin for receiving the gel.

9. The balaclava as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the sealing element

~~(13)~~ is stepped or beveled at least in some areas along the edge.

10. The balaclava as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the sealing element ~~(13)~~ directly adjoins the border ~~(7)~~ or is at a distance of up to 1 cm from the border.

11. The balaclava as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the sealing element ~~(13)~~ is worked into the inner lining ~~(17)~~ of the hood ~~(5)~~ or is sewn onto the inner lining ~~(17)~~, and/or in that a flexible cover layer ~~(18)~~ is provided on the outside of the inner lining ~~(17)~~ above the sealing element ~~(13)~~, and/or in that the cover layer ~~(18)~~ directly adjoins the border ~~(7)~~ or is at a distance of up to 1 cm from the border ~~(7)~~.

12. The balaclava as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the cover layer ~~(18)~~ is applied free of folds in the area of the sealing element ~~(13)~~, and/or in that the cover layer ~~(18)~~ has a filter material containing in particular activated carbon.

13. The balaclava as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the cover layer ~~(18)~~ extends at least substantially about the circumference of the viewing opening ~~(6)~~.

14. A CBRN protective suit ~~(2)~~ having a balaclava ~~(1)~~ as claimed in one of the preceding claims.

15. The balaclava ~~(1)~~ as claimed in one of the preceding claims or CBRN protective suit ~~(2)~~ as claimed in claim 14, with a breathing mask or gas mask ~~(3)~~.