CLAIMS

~~1. A receptacle device for a mask, the receptacle device comprising:~~

~~a valve;~~

~~a body portion surrounding the valve; and~~

~~an anchor portion;~~

~~wherein the body portion and the anchor portion are integrally formed; and~~

~~wherein the anchor portion and the body portion define a channel therebetween, and the channel is configured to releasably engage the mask.~~

1~~2~~. A ~~receptacle device for a~~face mask~~, the~~ receptacle device comprising:

a valve comprising at least one slit;

a body portion surrounding the valve; and

an anchor portion;

wherein at least one of the body portion ~~and~~ or anchor portion is elastic;

wherein the body portion and the anchor portion are inseparable by being integrally formed as one continuous piece;

wherein the one continuous piece is configured to ~~engage~~protrude through a hole of ~~the~~ face mask~~ by at least one of plastic joining, adhesive bonding, welding, mechanical fastening, stitching, and magnetic elements~~ that, in an assembled configuration, the body portion and the at least one slit are in an exterior region of the face mask and the anchor portion is in an interior region of the face mask;

wherein the valve is configured to receive a drinking, feeding or inhalation instrument therethrough; and

wherein the valve is structurally concave in a non-deformed state prior to receiving the drinking, feeding or inhalation instrument therethrough.

~~3. A receptacle device for a mask, the receptacle device comprising:~~

~~a valve;~~

~~a body portion surrounding the valve;~~

~~an anchor portion; and~~

~~a securing portion;~~

~~wherein the anchor portion and the body portion define a channel therebetween, and the channel is configured to releasably engage the securing portion; and~~

~~wherein the securing portion is configured to engage the mask by at least one of plastic joining, adhesive bonding, welding, mechanical fastening, stitching, and magnetic elements.~~

4. ~~A method of manufacturing a mask assembly or retrofitting a receptacle device to a workpiece mask, comprising the steps of:~~

~~- providing the mask;~~

~~- providing or creating a hole in the mask;~~

~~- providing a receptacle device having a valve, a body portion surrounding the valve, an anchor portion, wherein the body portion and the anchor portion are integrally formed, and wherein the anchor portion and the body portion define a channel therebetween;~~

~~- pushing the body portion through the hole; and~~

~~engaging the channel with the mask.~~

5. ~~The method of Claim 4, comprising the steps of:~~

~~- providing a securing portion;~~

~~- engaging the securing portion with the mask by at least one of plastic joining, adhesive bonding, welding, mechanical fastening, stitching, and magnetic elements;~~

~~pushing the body portion through the securing portion; and~~

~~- engaging the channel with the securing portion.~~

6. ~~The receptacle device of any one of Claims 2 to 3, wherein at least one of the body portion and anchor portion is interchangeable.~~

~~7. The receptacle device of any one of Claims 2 to 3, wherein the body portion is moveable between a first position and a second position relative to the anchor portion, optionally wherein movement towards the first position causes generation of a substantially hermetic seal between the anchor portion and the body portion, and movement towards the second position causes breaking of the substantially hermetic seal between the anchor portion and the body portion.~~

~~8. The receptacle device of any one of Claims 2 to 3, wherein the body portion and the anchor portion are integrally formed.~~

~~9. The receptacle device of any one of Claims 1 or 3 or method of Claim 4, wherein the channel is a groove.~~

~~10. The receptacle device of any one of Claims 1 to 3 or method of Claim 4, wherein the valve is configured to receive a drinking, feeding or inhalation instrument therethrough.~~

~~11~~2. The receptacle device of Claim 1~~any one of Claims 1 to 3 or method of Claim 4~~, wherein the valve is a self-sealing valve, optionally wherein the self-sealing valve is configured to generate a hermetic seal.

~~12. The receptacle device of any one of Claims 1 to 3 or method of Claim 4, wherein the valve is hemispherical.~~

~~13~~3. The receptacle device of Claim 1~~any one of Claims 1 to 3 or method of Claim 4~~, wherein the valve is flexibly suspended from the body portion.

4. The receptacle device of Claim 3, comprising a suspension ridge that connects the flexibly suspended valve and the body portion.

~~14~~5. The receptacle device of Claim 1~~any one of Claims 1 to 3 or method of Claim 4~~, wherein at least one of the body portion and anchor portion comprises gripping ridges or gripping notches.

~~15~~6. The receptacle device of Claim 1~~any one of Claims 1 to 3 or method of Claim 4~~, wherein the at least one slit~~valve~~ comprises a slit pattern, optionally wherein the slit pattern generates valve petals.

~~16. The receptacle device of Claim 15, wherein the slit pattern is configured to conform to the shape of a drinking, feeding or inhalation instrument when inserted through the valve, and/or wherein the slit pattern is configured to releasably grip and hold in position a drinking, feeding or inhalation instrument when inserted through the valve.~~

~~17~~7. The receptacle device of Claim 1~~any one of Claims 1 to 3 or method of Claim 4~~, wherein the anchor portion is configured to be substantially flush with an inner surface of the mask, optionally wherein the anchor portion comprises a surface for a user's lips to brace against when inserting a drinking, feeding or inhalation instrument through the valve.

~~18. The receptacle device of any one of Claims 1 to 2, comprising a securing portion that is configured to engage at least one of the body portion, the anchor portion, and the mask.~~

~~19. The receptacle device of Claim 18, wherein the securing portion comprises gripping ridges or gripping notches.~~

~~20~~8. The receptacle device of Claim 1~~any one of Claims 1 to 3 or method of Claim 4~~, comprising a guide portion.

~~21. The receptacle device of Claim 20, wherein the guide portion comprises a base and a wall, and wherein the wall tapers towards the base, optionally wherein the guide portion comprises a linear or exponential funnel shape.~~

9. The receptacle device of Claim 1, wherein the anchor portion and the body portion define a channel therebetween, and the channel is configured to releasably engage the mask.

~~22. The receptacle device of any one of Claims 1 or 3 or method of Claim 4, wherein the mask is trapped within the channel to generate a substantially hermetic seal.~~

~~23~~10. The receptacle device of Claim 1~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the body portion is configured to protrude through a hole in the mask.

11. The receptacle device of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the body portion and anchor portion is configured to engage the mask by at least one of plastic joining, adhesive bonding, welding, mechanical fastening, stitching, and magnetic elements.

12. The receptacle device of Claim 1, comprising a securing portion that is configured to engage at least one of the body portion, the anchor portion, and the mask.

~~24~~13. The receptacle device of Claim~~s~~ 12~~8~~, wherein the body portion is configured to protrude through a hole in the securing portion.

14. The receptacle device of Claim 12, wherein the securing portion is configured to engage the mask by at least one of plastic joining, adhesive bonding, welding, mechanical fastening, stitching, and magnetic elements.

15. The receptacle device of Claim 12, wherein the anchor portion and the body portion define a channel therebetween, and the channel is configured to releasably engage the securing portion.

16. The receptacle device of Claim 4, wherein the suspension ridge, the flexibly suspended valve, and the body portion define a space therebetween; and wherein the space is collapsible on application of a force against the body portion.

17. The receptacle device of Claim 6, wherein the slit pattern is configured to conform to the shape of a drinking, feeding or inhalation instrument when inserted through the valve, and/or wherein the slit pattern is configured to releasably grip and hold in position a drinking, feeding or inhalation instrument when inserted through the valve.

18. The receptacle device of Claim 8, wherein the guide portion comprises a base and a wall, and wherein the wall tapers towards the base.

19. The receptacle device of Claim 9, wherein the mask is trapped within the channel to generate a substantially hermetic seal.

20. The receptacle device of Claim 12, wherein the securing portion comprises gripping ridges or gripping notches.