

MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT STANDARD
FOR
FIRE BLANKET-FIRE FIGHTERS SUITS
(FIRE-PROOF TYPES) - FIRE-RESISTING
CURTAIN AND SHIELDS

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0. INTRODUCTION

Fire resisting suit should have a high thermal insulating value, but practically it may not be possible to have a sufficiently high insulating protection against high rate of heating.

Different types of clothing may be required for protection against heating by radiation and against heating caused by hot air and flame lick. Metalized reflecting fabrics provide effective protection against radiant heat. In this Standard the use of fire blanket, fire resisting blanket, curtains and shields will be discussed.

1. SCOPE

This material Standard is divided into two parts and specifies the minimum requirements for the following equipment:

Part I

a) Fire resistance suit

Against radiant heat and flame lick.

b) Fire resisting blanket

Glass fiber for extinction of fire.

c) Fire blankets

For personal protection.

Part II

d) Fire resisting curtain

To provide fire and heat guard for separation of hot gas, flame and smoke in movies (cinemas), theaters etc.

e) Fire resisting shield

For protection of fire fighters against heat and fire.

2. REFERENCES

In preparation of this Standard, the following codes and standards have been referred to or considered. The latest edition of these Standards and Codes to the extent specified herein, shall form a part of this Standard.

BSI (BRITISH STANDARD INSTITUTION)

BS 3120 "Performance Requirement of Materials for Flame Proofing"

BS Handbook "Method of Tests for Textile"
No. 11

BS 1547 "Flameproof Industrial Clothing"

BS 3119 "Method of Test for Flameproof Materials"

National Safety Council Accident Prevention Manual for Industrial Operations Chapter 38 (6th Edition)
Personal Protection Equipment

3. DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

3.1 Aluminized Clothing

Clothing made of aluminized coated flameproof fabric which reflects and insulates heat and fire for short period of time and are of two types:

- i) Fire proximity or reflective suit used in proximity of high temperature where flame is not entered or is designed to provide protection against conductive, convective and radiant heat.
- ii) Entry clothing protective clothing that is designed to provide protection from conductive, convective and radiant heat and permit entry into flame.

3.2 Fire Resisting Curtain

A fixed wall type curtain fixed above the proscenium opening which in case of stage fire automatically closes without the use of applied power.

3.3 Fire Resisting Shield

A local made shield to be used by fire fighters to combat intense flame and heat such as oil well fire.

4. UNITS

This Standard is based on International System of Units (SI), except where otherwise specified.

PART I

5. SPECIFICATION FOR FIRE RESISTANCE SUITS

5.1 General

Where men are working in extremely high temperatures up to 1000 to 1100°C, such as furnace and oven repair, cooking, slagging, fire fighting and rescue work, the use of aluminized fabrics are essential.

These suits consist of:

- a)** Trousers
- b)** Coats
- c)** Gloves
- d)** Boots
- e)** Hoods
- f)** One piece from head to foot
- g)** Air-Fed to reduce heat and increase comfort.

5.1.1 Aluminized clothing

This type of clothing falls into two classes:

a) Emergency suits (Figs. 2 and 3)

For temperature exceeding 550°C.

b) Fire proximity suits (Fig. 1)

Not to enter the flame area.

Notes:

- 1) Never use fire proximity clothing where fire entry suits are required.
- 2) Clothing for protection of close approach and other emergencies is given in Table 1.

TABLE 1 - CLOTHING FOR PROTECTION AGAINST INTENSE HEAT

TYPE OF HAZARD	EXAMPLE OF HAZARDS	FLAME RESISTANCE	SUGGESTED METHOD OF PROTECTION	FITTING OF SUIT	HEAD PROTECTION	
					TYPE	DEGREE OF VENTILATION
Radiant heat	Close approach fire	Outer material shall be "Flame Proof" and interlining shall be of low flammability	Highly reflective surfaces for high rate of heating thermal resistance	Free ventilation desirable to allow evaporation and prevent local heating	Faceshield of wire gage or transparent material which may be reflective coated	Naturally ventilated
Radiant heat and occasional flame lick	Rescue work and fire fighting operation in proximity of flame	Outer materials and inter lining shall be flame proof	Reflecting surfaces against radiant heat and thermal resistant as high as practicable	As little entry of air and as much free circulation of air inside the suit	Helmet with visor to drape to enclose the head and neck visor reflectively coated	Ventilation may be under control of wearer but shall be closable
Radiant heat and pockets of flame	"	"	"	Negligible entry of air and much precirculation of air inside the suit	"	"
Radiant heat and complete static immersion	Oil fires fire entry work	Outer material shall be of asbestos or material having similar or non combustible properties, inter lining to be flame proof	"	"	"	Shall be as air tight as practicable

This table has reference to Note 2 of Clause 5.1.1.

5.1.2 Ordinary clothing can be protected against flame or small sparks by flameproofing.

Flameproofing will make material:

- a) Highly flame-resistant.
- b) An effective water soluble for flameproofing is 226.8 grams of borax and 113.4 grams of boric acid in 3.8L of hot water.
- c) Flameproofed clothing should be marked for distinction.



ALUMINUM-COATED, HEAT-PROTECTIVE SUIT IS USED IN FIGHTING FIRES WITHOUT ENTERING THE BURNING AREA. TRANSPARENT FACESHIELD IS METAL COATED TO OFFER INCREASED HEAT PROTECTION. HEAD FITTING INCLUDES CHIN STRAP.

Fig. 1



FIRE ENTRY SUIT FOR USE IN ENTERING A BURNING AREA. NOTE THE SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS.

Fig. 2



DEMONSTRATION OF FIRE-ENTRY SUIT. SPUN GLASS MATERIAL OF SUIT IS CHEMICAL RESISTANT AND WILL NOT BURN, EVEN IN PURE OXYGEN ATMOSPHERE.

Fig. 3

5.2 Materials

5.2.1 The material of any articles of clothing used against heat and fire proximity shall be of flameproof.

5.2.2 Any lining material, that because of the design of the clothing, could come in contact with flame shall be of flameproof material.

5.3 Design and Make-Up

5.3.1 There shall be no pockets external to the assembly.

5.3.2 The trousers and the sleeves of the jacket shall not have turn-ups.

5.3.3 Wherever possible seams and sewing threads shall be protected. The threads shall be compatible with the body fabric and shall not impair the effectiveness of the protection afforded by the garment.

5.4 Head Wear

5.4.1 Helmets intended for use against fire proximity shall be tested complete with visors, there shall be no discoloration. The visor shall show no sign of cracking or breakdown, and all seams shall be substantially undamaged.

5.4.2 Helmets required to provide protection against impact and shall pass the test for shock absorption.

5.4.3 The amount of respirable air within the headwear and suit shall be made clear to the purchaser by the manufacturer and should be consistent with the use to which the equipment is to be put and for the time for which it is to be used.

5.4.4 Fasteners shall be so designed or protected that they cannot be damaged by heat or cause head injury to the wearer.

5.4.5 The field of vision shall meet the requirements of the operations to be conducted by the wearer and shall be agreed between the purchaser and the manufacturer.

5.4.6 The headwear shall be designed so that the visor or faceshield does not mist up in use to an extent that reduces the visibility.

5.5 The Visor

5.5.1 The visor or faceshield shall be constructed of at least two independent layer of material, and their edges shall be effectively protected by suitable frames or by the design of the helmet itself.

5.5.2 The degree of transparency to light passing through a visor shall be specified.

5.5.3 When the visor or faceshield is sprayed with water, it shall have no fragment and neither the field of vision of the wearer nor the transparency of the visor or faceshield shall be reduced by more than 50%.

5.5.4 The visor or faceshield shall not crack, fracture or become detached from its frame when tested.

5.6 Hand Wear

The gloves shall be graded as light duty or heavy duty and shall be designed so that it will not slip off in use but shall be easy to take off.

5.7 Foot Wear

The trousers leg of the protective suit should fit snugly into or around the boot to prevent the ingress of flame.

5.8 Instructions and Marking

5.8.1 Instructions

Manufacturer's instructions shall be provided with each suit of protective fire entry and proximity. These shall give information on how the best results may be obtained in use and on the limitations of the clothing, in particular, full information shall be provided concerning the undergarments used in assessing its performance, and it shall be stressed that the protective clothing for proximity and fire entry should be used only by trained personnel.

The instructions shall also give information on the amount of respirable air contained in the suit in terms of "the time for which it can be safely worn".

5.8.2 Marking

5.8.2.1 Each separate article of protective clothing and each garment, except visor and faceshield shall be permanently marked with the following:

- a)** The number of accepted standard;
- b)** the warning must be adhered according to manufacturer's instructions;

- c) the type of heat against which clothing is designed to give protection, "Flame" "Radiation" or both;
- d) each protective garment shall bear a permanent label bearing the manufacturer's identification mark and drawing attention to the necessity of consulting the manufacturer's instructions regarding the use of undergarments.

5.8.2.2 Marking of visor and faceshield

Visors and faceshields shall be marked with the following:

- a) The number of accepted standard;
- b) the manufacturer's identification mark.

5.9 Testing

Flameproof clothing shall be tested in accordance with BS 3791 Appendix B to J and certified to be flameproof for class and types of hazards.

6. FIRE RESISTANCE BLANKET

Defined as "Glass Fiber for Extinction of Fire".

6.1 Materials

The fire blanket shall be made of woven glass fiber fabric with silicon rubber coating on both sides.

6.2 Containers

6.2.1 Fire blanket shall be available in non-corrosive or plastic containers with quick release "pull" action.

6.2.2 The container shall bear the using instructions marked on container with the language specified.

6.3 Performance Requirements

All the test requirements laid down on BS 6575 shall be carried-out and certified by manufacturers.

6.4 Sizes

The following sizes should be used:

- a) 1200 mm × 1200 mm
- b) 1800 mm × 1200 mm
- c) 1800 mm × 1800 mm

6.5 The Use

Fire blankets can be used for fire extinction in:

- a) Catering establishment
- b) Schools
- c) Hospitals and nursing

- d) Laboratories
- e) Garage and work shops
- f) Boats and caravans
- g) Ships and galleys
- h) Numerous industrial outlets
- i) Extinction of fire on a persons clothing
- j) Restaurants
- k) Flammable liquid cans
- l) Cinema projection rooms

7. FIRE BLANKET

Defined as "Blanket for Personal Protection".

7.1 General

7.1.1 Fire blanket is a flexible sheet of material intended to be used for small fires by smothering or as a protection against radiant heat or small hot objects. Fire blankets are classified as:

- a) Light duty; for extinguishing small fires in containers of cooking fat or oil and fires in clothing worn by persons.
- b) Heavy duty; for industrial applications with ability to resist penetration by molten metals ejected from cutting and similar processes and any conducted or radiant heat transfer when used for insulation purposes, in addition to the uses mentioned for the light duty blankets.

7.1.2 Size and shape

Fire blanket shall be rectangular or square with no edge longer than 1800 mm. Light duty fire blankets shall have no edge less than 900 mm. Heavy duty fire blankets shall have no edge less than 1200 mm.

7.1.3 Mass

Fire blanket shall have a maximum mass of 10 kg.

7.1.4 Hand holding devices

Hand holding devices if provided shall not comprise loops or pockets and shall not become detached from the blanket during testing.

7.1.5 Appearance and line lateral use

The two sides of fire blanket shall be of similar appearance finish or color and shall give the same result when tested.

7.1.6 Flexibility

Fire blankets shall be capable of being rolled without permanent deformation and along any axis completely around a 50 mm dia bar.

7.1.7 Ease of removal and unpacking

Fire blankets shall be stowed or packed in such a way that they can be taken from the storage position, unfolded and held ready for use in not more than 4S. The force required to remove the fire blanket from its container shall not exceed 80 N.

7.2 Resistance to Fraying

The edge of fire blankets shall not fray or tear during testing.

7.3 Performance Tests

Fire blankets shall be certified by vendor for the following tests in accordance with Appendix A to F of BS 6575:

- a) Thermal insulation (heavy duty fire blanket only)
- b) Resistance to the effects of hot cutting (Heavy duty fire blanket only)
- c) Electrical insulation (resistance 1 Mega ohm)
- d) Reusability
- e) Fire performance test.

7.4 Marking Blankets

7.4.1 Each fire blanket/fire resisting blanket shall be marked with the following:

- a) The word "Fire blanket/fire resisting blanket";
- b) the word "Heavy duty" or "Light duty" and "reusable" as appropriate;
- c) the manufacturer's name and address.

7.4.2 Container

Each container shall be marked with word "Fire blanket" in white letters not less than 15 mm high on a rectangular background.

7.4.3 Container or instruction sheet

Each container or instruction sheet for fixing near to the storage position of the fire blanket shall be marked with following:

- a) The word "Fire Blanket/ Fire Resisting Blanket" on the front;
- b) the word "Heavy Duty" or "Light Duty" as appropriate;
- c) instruction for use;
- d) the manufacturers name and address;
- e) the model or other identification of the fire blanket;
- f) the size in meters;
- g) reusable or should be discarded after use;
- h) washing or cleaning instruction (reusable only);
- i) checking and maintenance instruction including when to discard if damaged or contaminated.

PART II

8. PROSCENIUM FIRE RESISTING CURTAIN

8.1 The proscenium opening of every approved stage shall be provided with a curtain made of approved materials constructed and mounted so as to intercept hot gases, flames and smoke to prevent a glow from a severe fire on the stage from showing on the auditorium side for a period of 5 minutes. The closing of the curtain from the full open position shall be effected in less than 30 seconds, but the last 2440 mm of travel shall require not less than 5 seconds.

8.2 The proscenium curtain shall be constructed in accordance with standards listed in NFC 101 code 8.3.2.1.7 (1992).

8.3 The curtain shall be automatic closing without the use of applied power. In addition to these protection the following items should also be considered:

- a) a noncombustible opaque fabric curtain so arranged that it will be closed automatically, and;
- b) an automatic fixed waterspray deluge system shall be located on the auditorium side of proscenium opening and be so arranged that the entire face of curtain will be wetted. The system shall be activated by combination of rate-of-rise and fixed-temperature detectors located on the ceiling of the stage. Detectors shall be spaced in accordance with their listing. The water supply shall be controlled by a deluge valve and shall be sufficient to keep the curtain completely wet for 30 minutes or until the valve is closed;
- c) the curtain shall be automatically operated in case of fire by a combination of rate-of-rise and fixed temperature detectors that also activates the deluge spray system. Stage sprinklers and vents shall be automatically operated in case of fire by fusible elements;
- d) operation of the stage sprinkler system or spray deluge valve shall automatically activate the emergency ventilating system and close the curtain, and;
- e) the curtain vents and spray deluge system valve shall also be capable of manual operation.

8.4 Every stages provided with fire resisting curtain and larger than 45 sq. m in area shall have a system of sprinkler at the ceiling and in usable spaces under stage.

8.5 Flame Retardant Requirement

The material used for fire resisting curtain shall meet the requirement of NFPA 701, standard methods of fire tests for flame-resistant of textile. Foamed plastics may be used only by specific approval of Iranian Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Industries.

Scenery and stage properties on thrust stages shall be either non-combustible or limited-combustible materials.

8.6 Standpipes

Regular stages over 93 sq. m in area and stages approved by Government authority shall be equipped with Standpipe located at each side of stage.

9. FIRE RESISTING SHIELDS

9.1 Fire resisting shields covered by asbestos or aluminized asbestos materials shall be fabricated of metal (steel) frame with asbestos cover and wherever considered essential to be provided with water spray protection. The shield may be of dolly type for ease of its movement. The shield shall be fixed with two fire resisting glass windows and opening for fire fighting nozzles.

9.2 The Size

Portable fire resisting shield shall not be less than 1200 mm wide and 2000 mm in height.

The fire resisting shield shall be made locally provided that material used are of flame and heat resistance of not less than ½ hour.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

NOTES ON DESIGN, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

A.1 Design

Clothing for protection against intense heat should be primarily designed to prevent heat reaching the wearer, and the entry of hot air and fumes.

This can be done by allowing ambient air circulate freely under the protective clothing.

In the design of helmet and suit, care should be taken to ensure that when in use there should be sufficient air trapped in the helmet and suit to meet the respiration requirements of the wearer for the exposure period.

The suit should be as airtight as possible and the helmet or its visor or faceshield has to be provided with ventilation opening, which should be easily closed to ensure a reserve of fresh air when it is in close position.

When protective clothing is used for short periods weight will not be an important factor, but where clothing is worn for long periods, the weight should be as low as possible. Care should be taken to ensure that body and limb movements are not hampered and the protective clothing should be proportioned. Either it should be made of flexible fabric or the clothing should be designed to give flexibility.

Other important aspects of design are:

- 1) Correct fitting;
- 2) ease and speed of donning and removal;
- 3) comfort in wear.

The gripping power of the soles depend on the nature of the surface that wearer is walking, on namely the material, angle of slope and condition (e.g. wet, dry, oily). To resist slipping performances of the different designs using several different wearers on sloping surfaces should be achieved. Non-skid qualities should last throughout the life of the foot-wear.

A.2 Maintenance

Garments should be examined thoroughly at regular intervals as well as after each time of use, and all tears, broken or defective fasteners, etc., should be repaired before re-use. The materials used in the repaired portion should meet the requirements of this Standard.

If a garment is soiled, it should be cleaned as soon as possible since contamination by flammable substances such as oil or grease may impair the flameproof properties of materials.

Any cleaning process on garments should be of such a nature that the cleaning agents and treatment have no deleterious effect. If clothing is dry-cleaned, no residual solvents giving rise to toxic effects should be used. The Manufacturer should recommend methods of cleaning.

The uppers of leather boots, except those made of suede leather, should be dressed periodically to maintain suppleness and waterproofness. Flammable oils and fats should not be used.

Metalized material garments can be used only if reflective surfaces are untarnished. These garments should be washed with soapy water and wiped with a very soft rag. Normal room temperature is suitable for storage of these garments, which should be hung so that unnecessary folding is avoided. Once the reflective surfaces are no longer bright the garment should be discarded.

(to be continued)

APPENDIX A (continued)**A.3 Operating conditions**

It is essential that wearer should know the limitations of the clothing and that he retreats from the danger zone before failure is likely. These garments should only be used by trained wearers who have frequent practice in wearing them.

Wearers should be prepared for the moment when the protective clothing and the air within it becomes rapidly warmer than the skin. Training should be planned so that each user can recognize the approach of the point of danger and the time to leave the danger zone.

Prevention of mist on the inside of a visor or faceshield is important. Various proprietary anti-mist compounds and devices which will alleviate this trouble to a large extent should be used.

The wetting of hot dry assemblies should be avoided as this may cause scalds.

APPENDIX B

CLOTHING FOR PROTECTION AGAINST HEAT AND FIRE GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USERS AND FOR THOSE IN CHARGE OF SUCH USERS

B.1 Scope and Field of Application

Rules and instructions that are essential to know and observe the use of clothing for protection against heat and fire should be in hand as a "Check- List" of safety requirements for those responsible for checking.

When new rulings specify regulations other than those given in this standard, the stricter specifications should be applied.

B.2 Important Preliminary Remarks

It is essential to release that no clothing for protection against heat and fire can offer unlimited protection.

Variable and interdependent factors affect the time that such clothing can offer protection in an area of heat and fire. For one and the same garment, this period may vary enormously from one operator to another.

It is important to realize that, if the operator has an accident or feels unwell, the absence of movement on his part reduces the circulation of air inside the garment and may increase the effects of the external heat.

B.3 Operators

B.3.1 State of health

Any person using the garment giving protection against heat and fire must be free from any physical or mental defects, especially if he is to wear a breathing apparatus.

B.3.2 Training

Protective clothing against intense heat with or without fire shall only be used by persons who undergo systematic training in its use.

Regular training has several objectives, the most important of which are:

- To acquire a routine to permit the reduction to a minimum of the time required to put on the clothing and special equipment;
- to keep the operator informed of the properties and limiting factors of the material he has to wear;
- to accustom the operator to move about in such clothing;
- to allow the operator to accustom his body to prolonged effort, while learning to recognize his physiological limit of endurance, and also to assess the approach of the moment when he is still able to retreat from the danger zone in total safety.

Training of operators should be carried out with garments corresponding to those used in practical operations. The old clothing of the same type and style should be used and kept exclusively for training.

(to be continued)

APPENDIX B (continued)**B.4 Materials****B.4.1 Fusible materials**

Persons likely to find themselves in an area where there is a risk of heat or fire shall not wear clothing or underclothing made of fusible material next to the skin even if they are protected by special garments.

B.4.2 Permeable and absorbent materials

Persons clothed in permeable garments or in garments of which the material of the outer layer absorb water or flammable products (liquids, dusts, gases or vapors) shall be aware of the danger of entering an area of intense heat or fire when those garments have been in, or in contact with such products. Specific safety measures shall be taken to prevent permeable or absorbent garments from coming into contact with liquid oxygen.

B.5 Electricity**B.5.1 Static electricity**

Certain garments may become charged with and discharge of static electricity. The use of such garments is dangerous in areas contaminated by explosive or flammable gases.

B.5.2 Electric shock-electrocution

Before entering an area where there is an electrical hazard, the person in charge of rescue operations or fire fighting shall ensure that electricity supply systems have been separated from the supply source.

B.6 Safety Provisions**B.6.1 Operational groups**

Any operation requiring special protective clothing or equipment shall be carried out by a group of at least two men who are in constant physical contact with each other and with a safety station situated outside the danger area.

At this safety station, for each group taking part in the operation, a stand-by group of at least the same number of men, protected at least as effectively as the first group should be ready to take immediate action at the slightest alert.

B.6.2 Cooling by wetting

Unless the garment has been specially designed for it, it shall never be cooled by wetting.

B.6.3 Illumination

The operational area should be illuminated.

(to be continued)

APPENDIX B (continued)

B.7 Inspection, Storage, Maintenance, etc.

B.7.1 Inspection

Garments for protection against heat and fire shall be checked at regular intervals and maintained in perfect condition. Particular attention shall be paid to the fastening devices to make sure they are operating properly.

Any defects that are discovered or suspected shall be pointed out to the Manufacturer or his certified representative who is responsible for declaring that the garment is capable of offering protection corresponding to its classification in accordance with the standards laid down.

Note:

The inspection of the state of the garments is especially responsible work. It requires special technical knowledge and often special equipment.

B.7.2 Storage

The manufacturer's recommendations regarding the conditioning and storage of clothing shall be strictly observed. Each type of garment shall be arranged in a group for rapid identification of its classification. A check shall be made at regular intervals to see that all these recommendations are observed.

Protective clothing, particularly if provided with a special surface to reflect heat, shall be stored in such a way as to avoid folding the material and to protect it against dust and other dirt which may decrease its efficiency.

Protective clothing made of woven, porous or absorbent materials shall be stored in such a way as to avoid its contamination by products likely to make its use dangerous.

B.7.3 Maintenance

The manufacturer's instructions regarding the maintenance, use and cleaning of the garments shall be strictly observed.

B.8 Used and Reconditioned Garments

B.8.1 Used, converted or reconditioned garments

The classification of a garment which has been used, whether reconditioned or not, shall be re-examined according to the standards drawn up for new garments without relying on its former classification.

Any re-examination shall ensure that the garment in question is then supplied with the symbol of its appropriate classification. Any reconditioning of a protective garment is likely to change its protective and other characteristics.

This task should be entrusted to a highly qualified person who then has to re-examine the classification of the garment.

Note:

By "reconditioning" is meant any work carried out on the original garment, with a view to restoring it to a suitable condition for use.

Even the replacing of a defective fastening device of a new garment is an act of reconditioning in sense of this Clause (7-1).

APPENDIX C

GLASS FIBER FIRE BLANKETS

Fire Blankets are made of texturised woven glass fiber which gives them a rough surface providing stability. Designed to enable simple storage of the blanket, the container is non-corrosive, rigid self extinguishing white PVC.

Blankets are available in the following sizes:

BLANKET SIZE cm	CONTAINER SIZE cm
90 × 90	27 × 8 × 8
122 × 122	31 × 8 × 8
180 × 122	36 × 8 × 8
90 × 90	27 × 8 × 8
90 × 90	27 × 8 × 8

Based on BS 6575:

Light Duty (re-usable) Fire Blankets which comply with the above packed in white rigid uPVC containers	
Blanket Size	Container Size
120 cm × 120 cm	8 cm × 8 cm × 30.5 cm
180 cm × 120 cm	8 cm × 8 cm × 35.5 cm