



Designation: ~~F2733—17~~ F2733 – 21

Standard Specification for Flame-Resistant Rainwear for Protection Against Flame Hazards¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification establishes applicable test methods, minimum physical and thermal performance criteria, a suggested sizing guide, and suggested purchasing information for rainwear for use by workers who are potentially exposed to industrial hydrocarbon fires or other petrochemical fire hazards.

1.1.1 This specification does not apply to rainwear used for thermal electric arc flash hazards. Specification of rainwear for these electric arc flash hazards are addressed in Specification ~~F1891~~.

1.2 The objective of this specification is to prescribe function and performance criteria for rainwear that meets a minimum level of thermal and physical performance when exposed to a laboratory-simulated fire exposure.

1.3 This specification is not intended to serve as a detailed manufacturing or purchasing specification, but can be referenced in purchase contracts to ensure that minimum performance requirements are met.

1.4 Controlled laboratory tests used to determine compliance with the performance requirements of this specification shall not be deemed as establishing performance levels for all situations to which wearers of this protective clothing are potentially exposed.

1.5 This specification does not attempt to establish in-service care and use of this flame-resistant rainwear.

1.6 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in ~~brackets~~parentheses are mathematical conversions to inch-pound or other units that are commonly used for thermal testing.

1.7 The following safety hazards caveat pertains to Sections 7 and 9 of this specification. *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.8 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F23 on Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F23.80 on Flame and Thermal.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles

D751 Test Methods for Coated Fabrics

D1117 Guide for Evaluating Nonwoven Fabrics (Withdrawn 2009)³

D1388 Test Method for Stiffness of Fabrics

D3393 Specification for Coated Fabrics—Waterproofness

D3776/D3776M Test Methods for Mass Per Unit Area (Weight) of Fabric

D3786/D3786M Test Method for Bursting Strength of Textile Fabrics—Diaphragm Bursting Strength Tester Method

D4391 Terminology Relating to The Burning Behavior of Textiles

D6413/D6413M Test Method for Flame Resistance of Textiles (Vertical Test)

E96/E96M Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials

F1494 Terminology Relating to Protective Clothing

F1891 Specification for Arc and Flame Resistant Rainwear

F1930 Test Method for Evaluation of Flame-Resistant Clothing for Protection Against Fire Simulations Using an Instrumented Manikin

2.2 Federal Specifications:⁴

FTMS 191A, Method 5516

FTMS CCC-T-191b, Method 5204

2.3 AATCC Standards:⁵

AATCC 135 Dimensional Changes Automatic Home Laundering of Woven and Knitted Fabrics

AATCC 127 Water Resistance: Hydrostatic Pressure Test

2.4 NFPA Standard:⁶

NFPA 2112 Standard on Flame-Resistant Garments for Protection of Industrial Personnel Against Flash Fire, 2007 Edition

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *afterflame, n*—persistent flaming of a material after the ignition source has been removed.

3.1.2 *afterflame time, n*—the length of time for which a material continues to flame after the ignition source has been removed.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—

During simulated laboratory fire testing of clothing, the length of time for which a specimen continues to exhibit a visible flaming as determined by a time display video recording or visual observation of the specimen during testing.

3.1.3 *breakopen, n*—in testing thermal protective materials, a material response evidenced by the formation of a hole in the test specimen during the thermal exposure that can result in direct exposure to heat/flame.

3.1.3.1 *Discussion*—

The specimen is considered to exhibit breakopen when a hole is produced as a result of the thermal exposure that is at least 3.2 cm² (0.5 in.²) in area or at least 2.5 cm (1.0 in.) in any dimension. Single threads across the opening or hole do not reduce the size of the hole for the purposes of this test method.

3.1.4 *burn injury, n*—burn damage which occurs within human skin at various depths as a function of temperature and time and which can be described mathematically in a burn injury model.

3.1.4.1 *Discussion*—

Burn injury in human tissue occurs when the tissue is heated above a critical temperature. The degree of burn injury—first, second, or third degree—depends upon the level above the critical temperature, the duration above the critical temperature, and the depth in the skin layers.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁴ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, <http://www.dodssp.daps.mil>.

⁵ Available from American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, <http://www.aatcc.org>.

⁶ Available from National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471, <http://www.nfpa.org>.

3.1.5 *char length, n*—in measuring flame resistance of textiles, the distance from the fabric edge which was directly exposed to the flame to the furthest point of visible fabric damage after a specified tearing force has been applied.

3.1.6 *charring, n*—the formation of carbonaceous residue as the result of pyrolysis or incomplete combustion.

3.1.7 *design test, n*—for flame-resistant rainwear, one made on a sample as representative of a commercial product; these tests will not generally be repeated in quantity production.

3.1.7.1 *Discussion*—

Perform the design test only when a new or modified rainwear material, substrate, coating, or adhesive is used to manufacture rainwear. A change in rainwear material includes, but is not limited to, any of the following: ~~The~~the material composition, weight, coating, laminate, adhesive, or the supplier of the material, substrate, coating, laminate, or adhesive.

3.1.8 *dripping, n*—in testing thermal protective material, a response evidenced by flowing of the fiber polymer.

3.1.8.1 *Discussion*—

In testing thermal protective materials, coated fabrics, or laminates, dripping is a response evidenced by flowing of the fiber polymer, the fabric coating, or the fabric laminates, and the evidence of droplets from the flowing material.

3.1.9 *embrittlement, n*—the formation of a brittle residue as a result of pyrolysis or incomplete combustion.

3.1.10 *fire exposure, n*—in laboratory-simulated fire testing of clothing, a ~~fuel-rich~~fuel-rich fire generated with non-stoichiometric amounts of propane and oxygen in air leading to incomplete combustion of the propane. The fire exposure is a propane-air diffusion flame with a controlled heat flux engulfing the manikin for a controlled duration.

3.1.11 *flame resistance, n*—the property of a material whereby flaming combustion is prevented, terminated, or inhibited following application of a flaming or nonflaming source of ignition, with or without subsequent removal of the ignition source.

3.1.12 *garment ignition, n*—in laboratory-simulated fire testing of clothing, the initiation of combustion of a garment specimen that does not self extinguish for at least 10 s.

3.1.13 *heat energy exposure, n*—in laboratory-simulated fire testing of clothing, the total heat energy received at a surface as a direct result of a laboratory-simulated fire.

3.1.13.1 *Discussion*—

As related to heat energy exposure, the energy in J/cm² (cal/cm²), that is transferred to the material surface is determined by multiplying the heat flux of the laboratory-simulated flash fire by the duration of the laboratory-simulated flash fire.

3.1.14 *melting, n*—a material response evidenced by softening of the polymer.

3.1.14.1 *Discussion*—

In testing flame-resistant rainwear, melting is additionally defined as the liquefaction of material under the influence of heat.

3.1.15 *rainwear, n*—a garment which provides protection from precipitation for the head, limbs, and body of the user.

3.1.16 *shrinkage, n*—a decrease in one or more dimensions of an object or material.

3.1.17 *thermal exposure, n*—the intensity of heat energy to which a fabric is exposed.

3.1.18 *thermal material response, n*—in laboratory-simulated fire testing of clothing, the effects that are observed concurrent and subsequent to thermal exposure, which can include phenomena such as breakopen, charring, embrittlement, melting, shrinkage, etc.

3.1.18.1 *Discussion*—

The thermal material response is a result of exposure to the radiant and convective energy of the laboratory-simulated fire.

3.1.19 *thermal protection, n*—the property that characterizes the overall performance of a garment or protective clothing ensemble relative to its ability to reduce burn injury caused by heat transfer. how it retards thermal energy that is sufficient to cause a predicted second-degree or predicted third-degree burn injury.

3.1.19.1 *Discussion*—

Thermal protection of a garment or ensemble and the consequential predicted burn injury (second-degree, third-degree, or both), are quantified from the response of manikin test thermal energy sensors. In addition to the calculated results, the physical response and degradation of the garment or protective ensemble are observable phenomena useful in understanding garment or protective clothing ensemble thermal protection.

3.1.20 *thermal resistance, n*—the reciprocal of thermal transmittance.

3.1.21 *thermal transmittance, n*—unidirectional heat transfer per unit area, in the steady state, between parallel planes, per unit difference of temperature of the planes.

3.2 For definitions of other textile terms used in this specification, refer to Terminologies **D123**, **D4391**, and **F1494**.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This specification covers the minimum performance criteria for flame resistance and other requirements for rainwear used by workers with the potential to be simultaneously exposed to wet weather conditions and either hydrocarbon or petrochemical industrial fires.

4.2 The purchaser has the option to perform or have performed any of the tests required by this specification in order to verify the performance of the rainwear.

4.3 This specification for rainwear shall not be construed as a requirement for the use of any particular rainwear material.

5. Ordering Information

5.1 It is useful for the purchaser to consider the following items when buying rainwear under this specification. Include these items, as necessary, in purchasing documents:

5.1.1 Type of material,

5.1.2 Fabric weight, g/m^2 (oz/yd²),

5.1.3 Type and material of fasteners (buttons, snaps, zippers, or hook-and-loop fasteners),

5.1.4 Reflective material sections (optional),

5.1.5 Style and design or catalog number,

5.1.6 Hood design (attached or detachable),

5.1.7 Sizes,

5.1.8 Color,

5.1.9 Special identification markings (optional),

5.1.10 Jacket length, trouser length (if applicable), trouser/jacket overlap (if applicable), and

5.1.11 Notation of conformance to this specification.

6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 The rainwear shall be designed and manufactured using materials and seam constructions that meet the requirements for leak resistance in **7.3**.

6.2 Mechanical fastener closures, such as buttons or snaps, shall be designed and constructed so that they are covered by the rainwear outer layer material.

6.2.1 This will result in the garment having a multiple layer construction in the area of the closure. This will also prevent the closure hardware from being directly exposed to the thermal hazard.

NOTE 1—In limited testing, it has been found some uncovered closures melt and fuse. Constructing the closures so that they are covered as described above is designed to mitigate the melting and fusing observed with uncovered closures.

7. Physical Performance Testing Procedures

7.1 Test rainwear material for physical performance characteristics initially as manufactured or as received from the manufacturer and after five cleaning and drying cycles unless otherwise indicated.

7.1.1 Clean and dry in accordance with care instructions from the rainwear manufacturer.

7.1.1.1 If no cleaning instructions are provided by the rainwear manufacturer, clean and dry in accordance with AATCC Method 135 (3, IV A iii).

7.1.2 For limited-use or disposable rainwear with care instructions indicating the rainwear is not to be cleaned, test the rainwear material sample only as received or as manufactured.

7.2 *Weight and Weight Uniformity – Rainwear Material:*

7.2.1 Determine the average weight in g/m^2 (oz/yd^2) of the rainwear material sample submitted for the material testing in 7.3, 7.4, and 7.5 (optional) in accordance with Test Methods D3776/D3776M, Option B. If a single sample of rainwear material is used for all of the designated tests, one average weight determination shall be done. If a different rainwear material sample is used for one or more of the tests, a separate average weight determination shall be done for each rainwear material sample.

7.2.1.1 Determine the average weight of each rainwear material sample initially as received and after five cleaning and drying cycles as described in 7.1.

7.2.2 Determine weight uniformity across the width of the rainwear material sample as received using the same temperature and humidity preconditioning as required for Test Methods D3776/D3776M, Option B.

7.2.2.1 For each as-received rainwear material sample for which the average weight was determined in accordance with 7.2.1, take five specimens, each consisting of a circle of rainwear material 89 mm (3.5 in.) in diameter at approximately equal spaced intervals diagonally across the width of the rainwear material sample.

7.2.2.2 Determine the weight in g/m^2 (oz/yd^2) of each of the five specimens.

7.3 Leak Resistance – Rainwear Material and Seams:

7.3.1 Test the rainwear material in accordance with Specification **D3393** at a water pressure of 207 kPa (30 psig).

7.3.2 Test the seams of the rainwear material in accordance with AATCC 127 test method at a water pressure of 20.7 kPa (3 psig) for 2 min.

7.3.2.1 Use a pump device to achieve 20.7 kPa (3 psig) if extension of the water column is not practical.

7.4 Trapezoidal Tearing Resistance or Burst Strength:

7.4.1 Test the rainwear material for trapezoidal tearing resistance in accordance with Guide **D1117**, except that the measured value shall be the average of the five highest peak loads. **Appendix X3** provides detailed information for the trapezoidal tearing resistance of rainwear material in accordance with Guide **D1117**.

7.4.2 When the rainwear substrate fabric is a knit or a stretch woven material, it is acceptable to substitute Test Method **D3786/D3786M** for the trapezoidal tearing resistance test.

7.5 Water Vapor Transmission:

7.5.1 On an optional basis, test the rainwear material for water vapor transmission (WVT) in accordance with Test Methods **E96/E96M** using the inverted cup (BW) procedure.

8. Thermal Performance Testing Procedures

8.1 Rainwear samples for thermal tests shall be representative of the rainwear material or system. If the rainwear is constructed of a single-layer material, carry out all thermal tests on a single-layer sample of the rainwear material. If the rainwear is constructed of a multi-layer system of materials, test each layer of the multilayer system by the procedure in **8.2** and test a multi-layer sample of the rainwear by the procedures in **8.3** and **8.4**.

8.2 Test the rainwear material for flame resistance in accordance with Test Method **D6413/D6413M**.

8.2.1 Test the rainwear material initially as manufactured or as received from the manufacturer and after five cleaning and drying cycles as described in **7.1**.

8.2.2 For limited-use or disposable rainwear with care instructions indicating the rainwear is not to be cleaned, test the rainwear coverall specimens only as received without cleaning.

8.3 Test at least three rainwear coverall specimens made from the rainwear material sample in accordance with Test Method **F1930**. Fabricate the coverall specimens in accordance with the standard garment requirements specified in Test Method **F1930**, subsection 8.3.2.

NOTE 2—Test Method **F1930** is a design test.

8.3.1 Test the three rainwear coverall specimens by the procedure in **8.3** after one cleaning and drying. Clean and dry the rainwear coverall specimens as directed by care instructions from the rainwear manufacturer.

8.3.1.1 If no cleaning instructions are provided by the rainwear manufacturer, clean and dry the rainwear coverall specimens one time in accordance with the AATCC Method 135 (3, IV A iii).

8.3.1.2 Alternatively, clean and dry the rainwear coverall specimens in accordance with the procedure required by NFPA 2112.

8.3.2 For limited-use or disposable rainwear with care instructions indicating the rainwear is not to be cleaned, test the rainwear material sample only as received or as manufactured.

8.3.3 Dress the Test Method **F1930** instrumented manikin in 100 % cotton briefs and a 100 % cotton crew neck T-shirt before the rainwear coverall specimens are positioned on the instrumented manikin.

8.3.4 Use a heat flux of $84 \pm 4 \text{ kW/m}^2$ ($2.0 \pm 0.1 \text{ cal/cm}^2\text{s}$) and an exposure time of $3 \pm 0.1 \text{ s}$ as test parameters for Test Method **F1930**. It is acceptable to assess additional test parameters and report the results on an optional basis.

8.3.5 Determine the predicted total area of burn injury, the predicted second-degree burn area, and the predicted third-degree burn area in accordance with Test Method **F1930**, subsections 12.5 and 12.6. Determine the averages of these parameters for the three Test Method **F1930** tests.

8.3.5.1 If more than three rainwear coverall specimens are tested in accordance with **8.3**, determine the test results and the averages of test results listed in **8.3.5** for the total number of specimens tested.

8.4 *Closure Function and Structural Seam Integrity*—Test at least two sets of as-sold or finished goods rainwear subject to this standard in size “large” in accordance with Test Method **F1930**. This testing shall apply to all models and styles of rainwear from the rainwear manufacturer for which seams and closures of the tested as-sold or finished goods rainwear are representative.

NOTE 3—A set of as-sold or finished goods rainwear can consist of a jacket and pants, a jacket and bib overalls, or a coverall as long as the set of rainwear is subject to this standard and is a style or model designed and manufactured as sold to users.

NOTE 4—Test Method **F1930** is a design test.

8.4.1 Test the as-sold rainwear by the procedure in **8.4** after one cleaning and drying. Clean and dry as directed by care instructions from the rainwear manufacturer.

8.4.1.1 If no cleaning instructions are provided by the as-sold rainwear manufacturer, clean and dry the rainwear one time in accordance with the AATCC Method 135 (3, IV A iii).

8.4.1.2 Alternatively, clean and dry the as-sold rainwear in accordance with the procedure required by NFPA 2112.

8.4.2 For limited-use or disposable as-sold rainwear with care instructions indicating the rainwear is not to be cleaned, test the rainwear only as received without cleaning.

8.4.3 Dress the Test Method **F1930** instrumented manikin in 100 % cotton briefs and a 100 % cotton crew neck T-shirt before the rainwear specimens are positioned on the instrumented manikin.

8.4.4 Use a heat flux of $84 \pm 4 \text{ kW/m}^2$ ($2.0 \pm 0.1 \text{ cal/cm}^2\text{s}$) and an exposure time of $3 \pm 0.1 \text{ s}$ as test parameters for Test Method **F1930**. It is acceptable to assess additional test parameters and report the results on an optional basis.

8.4.5 Determine the predicted total area of burn injury, the predicted second-degree burn area, and the predicted third-degree burn area according to Test Method **F1930**, subsections 12.5 and 12.6. Determine the averages of these parameters for the two Test Method **F1930** tests.

8.4.5.1 If more than two sets of rainwear are tested in accordance with **8.4**, determine the test results and the averages of test results listed in **8.4.5** for the total number of sets of rainwear tested.

8.4.6 *Structural Seam Integrity*—Inspect structural seams of each of the sets of as-sold rainwear after the exposure in **8.4.4** and before removal of the rainwear from the manikin and also before opening the rainwear closures. Determine any structural seam failure which results in a structural seam opening that exceeds 51 mm (2 in.).

8.4.7 *Closure Function After Thermal Exposure*—For each of the sets of as-sold rainwear, after the exposure in **8.4.4** and before removal of the rainwear specimen from the manikin, determine whether or not all rainwear closures can be fully opened, using hands only.

9. Performance Requirements

9.1 *Material Weight and Weight Uniformity:*