
**PPE ensembles for firefighters
undertaking specific rescue
activities —**

**Part 3:
Clothing**

*Équipements de protection personnelle pour pompiers entreprenant
des activités de sauvetage particulières —
Partie 3: Vêtements*

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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	2
4 Design requirements	5
4.1 General.....	5
4.2 Size designation.....	5
4.3 Type of clothing.....	5
4.4 Outer two piece suit.....	5
4.5 External Pockets.....	5
4.6 Padding.....	5
4.7 Closures.....	6
4.8 Hardware.....	6
4.9 Collar.....	6
4.10 Integrated personal protective equipment.....	6
4.11 Visibility and Conspicuity.....	6
5 Sampling and pre-treatment	6
5.1 Sampling.....	6
5.2 Pre-treatment.....	7
5.2.1 Cleaning.....	7
5.2.2 Conditioning.....	7
6 Performance requirements	7
6.1 General classification.....	7
6.2 Summary requirements and classification.....	7
6.2.1 Road Traffic Crash (RTC).....	7
6.2.2 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR).....	7
6.3 Thermal/arc requirements.....	8
6.3.1 Flame resistance.....	8
6.3.2 Radiant heat transfer.....	10
6.3.3 Contact heat.....	10
6.4 Mechanical protection requirements.....	10
6.4.1 Tensile strength.....	10
6.4.2 Tear strength.....	10
6.4.3 Abrasion resistance.....	10
6.4.4 Dimensional change.....	10
6.5 Environmental Protection requirements.....	11
6.5.1 Surface wetting.....	11
6.5.2 Electrostatic resistance.....	11
6.5.3 Water vapour resistance.....	11
6.6 Visibility requirements.....	11
6.7 Biological and chemical requirements.....	11
6.7.1 Viral requirements.....	11
7 Marking	12
8 Information supplied by the manufacturer	12
Annex A (normative) Water absorption resistance	13
Bibliography	15

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

ISO 18639-3 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 94, *Personal Safety — Protective Clothing and equipment*, Subcommittee SC 14, *Firefighters Personal Equipment*.

A list of all the parts in the ISO 18639 series can be found on the ISO website.

[ISO 18639-3:2018](https://standards.iteh.ai/ISO/18639-3:2018)

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Introduction

ISO 18639 is a standard for personal protective equipment (PPE) for firefighters when engaged in specific rescue activities. It is not possible to provide a standard for PPE to cover all of the diverse range of rescue scenarios that firefighters are likely to encounter so it is important that risk assessments be undertaken to determine if the PPE covered by ISO 18639 is suitable for its intended use and the expected exposure to hazards. For complete protection against exposures, the risk assessment should include protection of the whole body including the torso, arms and legs, head, face, hands and feet.

For certain rescue activities, safety ropes and harnesses can be required. For certain rescue situations, special PPE for use in and on water may be required. In some cases, appropriate respiratory protection may also be identified as being necessary.

The performance requirements in this document take account of accidental exposure to heat and flame, but do not cover PPE for firefighting. While this standard takes account of accidental exposure to some common chemicals, it is not intended that PPE to this standard should be considered as providing chemical protection as a primary function. It does not cover PPE to protect against biological, electrical or radiation hazards. The risk assessment should determine whether PPE complying to this standard or to the requirements of any other relevant standard is more suitable.

Firefighters should be trained in the use, care and maintenance of the PPE covered by this document, including an understanding of its limitations.

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PPE ensembles for firefighters undertaking specific rescue activities —

Part 3: Clothing

1 Scope

This document specifies test methods and minimum performance requirements for protective clothing for firefighters while engaged in rescue activities.

Clothing related to specific rescue activities are documented in individual subclauses, see [6.2.1](#) or [6.2.2](#).

NOTE For further guidance see ISO 18639-1.

Subclauses of this document cover general clothing design, the minimum performance level of the materials used and the methods of test for determining this performance level.

This document does not cover special clothing for use in other high risk situations such as firefighting.

It does not cover protection for the head, hands and feet or protection against other hazards, e.g. chemical, biological, radiation and electrical hazards, except for limited, accidental exposure to some chemicals and contaminated blood or other body fluids.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 1421, *Rubber- or plastics-coated fabrics — Determination of tensile strength and elongation at break*

ISO 3175-1, *Textiles – Professional care, dry cleaning and wet cleaning of fabrics and garments – Part 1: Assessment of performance after cleaning and finishing*

ISO 4674-1, *Rubber- or plastics-coated fabrics — Determination of tear resistance — Part 1: Constant rate of tear methods*

ISO 4920, *Textile fabrics — Determination of resistance to surface wetting (spray test)*

ISO 5077, *Textiles — Determination of dimensional change in washing and drying*

ISO 6330, *Textiles — Domestic washing and drying procedures for textile testing*

ISO 6942, *Protective clothing — Protection against heat and fire — Method of test: Evaluation of materials and material assemblies when exposed to a source of radiant heat*

ISO 11092, *Textiles — Physiological effects — Measurement of thermal and water-vapour resistance under steady-state conditions (sweating guarded-hotplate test)*

ISO/TS 11999-2, *PPE for firefighters — Test methods and requirements for PPE used by firefighters who are at risk of exposure to high levels of heat and/or flame while fighting fires occurring in structures — Part 2: Compatibility*

ISO 18639-3:2018(E)

ISO 12127-1, *Clothing for protection against heat and flame — Determination of contact heat transmission through protective clothing or constituent materials — Part 1: Contact heat produced by heating cylinder*

ISO 12947-2, *Textiles — Determination of the abrasion resistance of fabrics by the Martindale method — Part 2: Determination of specimen breakdown*

ISO 13688, *Protective clothing — General requirements*

ISO 13934-1, *Textiles — Tensile properties of fabrics — Part 1: Determination of maximum force and elongation at maximum force using the strip method*

ISO 13935-2, *Textiles — Seam tensile properties of fabrics and made-up textile articles — Part 2: Determination of maximum force to seam rupture using the grab method*

ISO 13937-2, *Textiles — Tear properties of fabrics — Part 2: Determination of tear force of trouser-shaped test specimens (Single tear method)*

ISO 14116, *Protective clothing — Protection against flame — Limited flame spread materials, material assemblies and clothing*

ISO 15025, *Protective clothing — Protection against flame — Method of test for limited flame spread*

ISO 16604, *Clothing for protection against contact with blood and body fluids — Determination of resistance of protective clothing materials to penetration by blood-borne pathogens — Test method using Phi-X 174 bacteriophage*

ISO 18639-1, *PPE for firefighters undertaking specific rescue activities*

ISO 17493, *Clothing and equipment for protection against heat — Test method for convective heat resistance using a hot air circulating oven*

ISO 20471, *High visibility clothing — Test methods and requirements*

EN 1149-5, *Protective clothing — Electrostatic properties. Material performance and design requirements*

[ISO 18639-3:2018](#)

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

— IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

anti-wicking barrier

material used to prevent the transfer of liquid from outside the garment to inside the garment, usually in addition to or replacing part of the moisture barrier at the edge(s)

3.2

clothing assembly

levels of performance specified in this document achieved by the use of a garment or a clothing assembly, which may contain multilayer materials, material combinations in single layers, or a series of separate garments

3.3 cleaning

process by which a PPE is made again serviceable and/or hygienically wearable by removing any dirt or contamination

Note 1 to entry: A cleaning cycle is typically a washing plus drying or a dry cleaning treatment followed, if required, by ironing or finishing.

3.4 closure system

method of fastening openings in the garment including combinations of more than one method of achieving a secure closure

Note 1 to entry: This term does not cover seams.

3.5 component assembly

combination of all materials of a multi-layer garment presented exactly as the finished garment construction

3.6 conditioning

keeping samples under standard conditions of temperature and relative humidity for a minimum period of time

3.7 drain mesh material

permeable material designed to allow drainage of water between the moisture barrier and innermost lining

3.8 garment

single item of clothing which may consist of single or multiple layers

3.9 hardware

non-fabric items used in protective clothing including those made of metal or plastic, e.g. touch and close fasteners, buttons, zippers, embroideries, braces

3.10 high visibility trim

material exhibiting separate performance or combined performance of retroreflective and fluorescent properties

Note 1 to entry: Retroreflective materials enhance night time visibility and fluorescent materials improve daytime visibility.

3.11 interface area

area where two separate and adjacent items of PPE interface function together to provide continuity of protection and performance

3.12 innermost lining

lining on the innermost face of a component assembly which is intended to be nearest to the wearer's skin

Note 1 to entry: Where the innermost lining forms part of a material combination, the material combination is regarded as the innermost lining.

3.13 interlining

layer between the outermost layer and the innermost lining in a multilayer garment

**3.14
material**

substances excluding hardware and labels, of which an item of clothing is made

**3.15
material assembly**

combination of all materials of a multi-layer garment presented exactly as the finished garment construction

**3.16
material combination**

material produced from a series of separate layers, fixed together during the garment manufacturing stage

**3.17
moisture barrier**

fabric or membrane used in a component assembly to achieve the properties of hydrostatic resistance with water vapour permeability

Note 1 to entry: Moisture barriers may not prevent the passage of some chemical (except incidentally), biological, or radiological agents. Appropriate PPE should be provided to protect the wearer in such instances.

**3.18
multilayer material**

material consisting of different layers intimately combined prior to the garment manufacturing stage, e.g. by weaving, quilting, coating or gluing

**3.19
outer garment**

outermost garment of the clothing that will be exposed to the hazard(s)

**3.20
outer material**

outermost material (i.e., outer shell) of which the clothing assembly is made, with the exception of trim, hardware, reinforcing materials and wristlet material

**3.21
overlapping seam**

any seam where all or parts of one or more layers of material cover any other layer or layers

**3.22
pre-treatment**

standard way of preparing the samples before testing

Note 1 to entry: This may include e.g. a number of cleaning cycles, submitting the sample to heat, mechanical action or any other relevant exposure and is finished by conditioning.

**3.23
rank markings**

symbol or colour coding system denoting the rank or position within the hierarchy of an organisation or group

EXAMPLE Embroideries, badges, patches, transfers.

**3.24
seam**

permanent fastening between two or more pieces of material

**3.25
structural seam**

seam which holds the outer garment together and which if broken would expose the under garments and reduce protection