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Standard Guide for Home Laundering Care and Maintenance of Flame, Thermal and Arc Resistant Clothing¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide provides recommendations for home laundering of clothing that is flame, thermal, and arc resistant.

1.1.1 This guide does not apply to dry cleaning of flame, thermal, and arc resistant clothing. For more information on dry cleaning, follow label instructions or contact your garment supplier or fabric manufacturer.

1.1.2 This guide does not apply to industrial laundering of flame, thermal, and arc resistant clothing. For more information on industrial laundering, follow Guide F1449 or contact your garment supplier.

1.2 When garments are laundered properly, using the proper detergent, home laundering is an effective cleaning process.

1.3 It is important that potentially flammable contaminants are removed from garments during the wash process. If flammable contaminants are not removed, the flame resistance of the garment may be compromised.

1.3.1 To reduce the potential of employees wearing garments contaminated with flammable substances, the end user should analyze the soil conditions to which a worker may be exposed, along with the effectiveness of the wash procedure. In the event home laundering is deemed ineffective, alternative solutions should be pursued (dry cleaning, industrial laundering, disposable FR coveralls, etc.).

1.4 Certain laundry chemicals that may have an adverse effect on fabric flame resistance are identified in this guide and should not be used.

1.5 This guide does not apply to specialized protective garments such as specialized firefighter turnout gear and proximity firefighter ensembles.

1.6 This guide also provides recommendations for inspection criteria that are significant to the performance of flame, thermal, and arc resistant clothing.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

D123 *Terminology Relating to Textiles*

F1449 *Guide for Industrial Laundering of Flame, Thermal, and Arc Resistant Clothing*

F1494 *Terminology Relating to Protective Clothing*

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.1.1 *care and maintenance, n*—effective cleaning to remove soil and maximize useful life of garments while maintaining (not removing) protective properties and procedures for inspection, repair, and removal from service.

3.1.2 *end user, n*—the entity or organization whose employees ultimately wear the flame, thermal, and arc resistant clothing.

3.1.3 *soil, n*—dirt or other foreign substances which become attached to the surface of protective clothing.

3.1.4 *wearer, n*—the individual who wears flame, thermal or arc resistant clothing and is responsible for care and maintenance of the clothing.

3.1.5 *garment, n*—an article of clothing used to cover the body.

3.1.6 *fabric, n*—in textiles, a planar structure consisting of yarns or fibers.

4. Summary of Guide

4.1 This guide provides recommendations to effectively care for and maintain flame, thermal, and arc resistant clothing. The guidelines include:

4.1.1 A listing of elements to consider when laundering at home.

4.1.2 Recommendations for removing flame, thermal, and arc resistant clothing from service.

4.1.3 Recommendations for the repair, modification and fit of flame, thermal and arc resistant clothing.

¹ This guide 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 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.