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Standard Specification for Foot Protection for Chainsaw Users¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers minimum requirements for the design, performance, testing, and certification of footwear and foot protective devices designed to provide cut resistance protection to the feet of operators of power chainsaws.

1.2 The objective of this specification is to prescribe fit, function, and performance criteria for footwear and foot protective devices, worn by chainsaw operators, which are intended to reduce foot injuries caused by contact with a running power saw chain.

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 chainsaw operators may be exposed.

1.5 Mandatory requirements are indicated by the use of the word shall; recommendations and advisory information is indicated by the use of the word should.

1.6 *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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

F1414 Test Method for Measurement of Cut Resistance to Chainsaw in Lower Body (Legs) Protective Clothing

F1458 Test Method for Measurement of Cut Resistance to Chainsaw of Foot Protective Devices

F1897 Specification for Leg Protection for Chain Saw Users

F2413 Specification for Performance Requirements for Protective (Safety) Toe Cap Footwear

2.2 OSHA Standard:³

29 CFR 1910.266

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *approve, v*—to be acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

3.1.2 *authority having jurisdiction, n*— the organization, office, or individual responsible for approving any equipment, installation, or procedure.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—The term *authority having jurisdiction* is used in this document in a broad manner since jurisdictions and the responsibilities of approval agencies vary.

3.1.3 *certification, n*—a system whereby an organization determines that a manufacturer has demonstrated the ability to make a product that complies with the requirements of the specification, authorizes the manufacturer to use a label on products that comply with the requirements of the specification, and conducts a follow-up program to verify the methods the manufacturer uses to determine compliance with the requirements of this specification.

3.1.4 *certification organization, n*—an independent, third-party organization that determines product compliance with the requirements of the specification with a labeling and listing follow-up program.

3.1.5 *chainsaw, n*—a portable power-operated tool used for cutting wood which has cutters linked in a chain.

3.1.6 *chain speed, n*—the speed of synchronized movement of linked cutters around a guide bar and sprocket.

3.1.7 *chainspeed 50 (CS50), n*—for chainsaw protection, the mean speed at which cut through occurs.

3.1.7.1 *Discussion*—This value establishes the relationship between the probability of cutting through the chainsaw leg protective clothing (or foot protective device) and the speed of

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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.

³ Available from Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 200 Constitution Ave., Washington, DC 20210, http://www.osha.gov.

the saw chain. For lower chain speeds, the probability of cut through approaches zero, while for higher chain speeds, the probability of cut through approaches one.

3.1.8 *chain stop*, *n*—for chainsaw cut resistance, the resulting action when a material clogs (jams) the drive sprocket or slows the speed sufficiently to prevent advancement of the saw chain.

3.1.9 *cut resistance*, *n*—in chainsaw testing, the ability of a material, while in contact with the linked cutters, to resist cut through of the cutters of a moving saw chain, independent of either jamming or chain stop.

3.1.10 *cut-through*, *n*—for chainsaw cut resistance, the action of a running chainsaw after complete breakthrough of either protective garment or protective device.

3.1.11 *follow-up program*, *n*—the sampling, inspection, tests, or other measures conducted by the certification organization on a periodic basis to determine the continued compliance of products that are being made by the manufacturer to the requirements of the standard specification.

3.1.12 *foot protective device*, *n*—for chainsaw cut resistance, an article of personal equipment which covers the foot and ankle for the purpose of providing limited protection from injury due to contact with a moving saw chain.

3.1.13 *footwear*, *n*—for chainsaw cut resistance, a boot or shoe of any construction.

3.1.14 *gaiter*, *n*—for chainsaw cut resistance, a foot protective device permanently attached to the outside of the footwear.

3.1.15 *jamming*, *n*—for chainsaw cut resistance, the clogging action manifested by a protective garment which can produce a chain stop.

3.1.16 *label*, *v*—for protective clothing, to attach a symbol or other identifying mark, the use of which has been authorized by a certification organization.

3.1.17 *list*, *v*—for protective clothing, to publish a register of equipment or materials which has been verified by a certification organization as being acceptable and meeting the requirements of standard specifications.

3.1.17.1 *Discussion*—The means for identifying listed equipment may vary for each organization concerned with product evaluation, some of which do not recognize equipment as listed unless it is also labeled. The authority having jurisdiction should utilize the system employed by the certification organization to identify a listed product.

3.1.18 *protective clothing*, *n*—an item of clothing that is specifically designed and constructed for the intended purpose of isolating all or part of the body from a potential hazard or isolating the external environment from contamination by the wearer of the clothing.

3.1.18.1 *Discussion*—For chainsaw cut resistant protective clothing the potential hazard is exposure to a running power saw chain.

3.1.19 *saw chain*, *n*—a closed loop of cutters linked together for use in a portable power-operated tool.

3.1.20 *toe area cut zone*—in the testing of foot protective devices, that area, excluding the sole, that extends from the

frontmost part of the footwear, to a vertical plane 15 mm \pm 0.25 mm (0.60 in. \pm 0.01 in.) behind the toe box.

3.1.20.1 *Discussion*—In the absence of a toe box, the toe area cut zone extends to a vertical plane 65 mm \pm .25 mm (2.60 in. \pm 0.01 in.) from the front of the footwear.

3.1.21 *toe box*, *n*—in the testing of foot protective devices, a component inserted into the toe area of footwear.

3.1.22 *upper*, *n*—in footwear, that area of the footwear above the sole.

3.1.23 *upper cut zone*, *n*—in the testing of foot protective devices, that area which starts near the top of the footwear and extends downward, but excludes the toe area cut zone.

4. Materials and Workmanship

4.1 Footwear and foot protective devices shall be constructed of materials which should remain functional and effective throughout seasonal climatic variations.

4.2 Footwear and foot protective devices shall not impede normal movement or the capability to perform the intended tasks.

4.3 The workmanship in the production and assembly of the footwear or foot protective device shall be such that the protective material is securely attached.

4.4 Footwear and foot protective devices shall be free of defects or imperfections which could detract from their function or performance. All hardware should be free of rough spots, burrs, or sharp edges.

5. Areas of Protection

5.1 Footwear and foot protective devices shall have a minimum area of protection as described in 5.1.1 – 5.1.3.

5.1.1 *Height of Protection*—The chainsaw cut resistance area of the upper test cut zone shall extend downward from a minimum height of 178 mm (7 in.). (See Fig. 1.)

NOTE 1—This height can be measured by using a dowel having 64-mm (2½ in.) diameter and 178 mm (7 in.) length placed at the inside back of the heel of the footwear.

5.1.2 *Width of Protection:*

5.1.2.1 *Slip On or Non-Frontal Closure Device*—The chainsaw cut resistance area shall extend from Point A, at the front centerline to vertical lines on both sides of the footwear or the foot protective device. The top of the vertical lines are 70 mm (2.75 in.) from Point A when measured circumferentially along the top of the minimum protective area as shown in Fig. 1.

5.1.2.2 *Front Closure Device*—The chainsaw cut resistance area shall extend from Point A, at the front centerline to vertical lines on both sides of the footwear or foot protective device. The top of the vertical lines are 75 mm (3.0 in.) from Point B when measured circumferentially along the top of the minimum protective area as shown in Fig. 2.

5.1.3 *Toe Area Protection*—Toe boxes at least 1.6 mm (0.60 in.) thickness steel shall be considered to be part of the protective area.

6. Inspection and Performance Testing

6.1 *Inspection:*