

Australian/New Zealand Standard

Occupational protective clothing

**Part 1: Guidelines on the selection, use,
care and maintenance of protective
clothing**



AS/NZS 4501.1:2008

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF-004, Occupational Protective Clothing. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 28 May 2008 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 31 May 2008.

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The following are represented on Committee SF-004:

Apparel and Textile Federation of New Zealand
Association of Accredited Certification Bodies
Australasian Fire Authorities Council
Australian Business Limited
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Industry Group
Council of Textile and Fashion Industries of Australia
Department of Consumer and Employment Protection, WorkSafe Division, WA
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Australian/New Zealand Standard[™]

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Originally in Australia as part of AS 2375—1980.
Jointly revised and redesignated as AS/NZS 4501.1:2008.

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee SF-004, Occupational Protective Clothing to supersede (in part) AS 2375—1980, *Guide to the selection, care and use of clothing for production against heat and fire* to cover topics discussed in AS 2375 but not included in ISO/TR 2801-2007.

The objective of this Standard is to provide guidelines for users of occupational clothing adopting the current edition of CEN/TR 15321:2006.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from CEN/TR 15321:2006, *Guidelines on the selection, use, care and maintenance of protective clothing*

As this Standard is reproduced from an international standard, the following applies:

- (a) Its number appears on the cover and title page while the EN standard number appears only on the cover.
- (b) In the source text ‘this Technical Report’ should read ‘this Australian New Zealand Standard’.
- (c) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

The term ‘informative’ has been used in this Standard to define the application of the annex to which it applies. An ‘informative’ annex is only for information and guidance.

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INTRODUCTION

European Standards for protective clothing are developed to ensure compliance with the European directive 89/686/EEC. Since the primary aim of this directive is to guarantee a free market in the European Union, these standards are made to meet the needs for a common set of safety requirements and test methods.

The actual use of protective clothing is not covered by this directive, nor by the standards related.

To meet the needs for a document on selection, use, care and maintenance, this CEN report has been made. Regulations on health and safety are based on directive 89/656/EEC, giving minimum requirements on the selection and use of PPE on the workplace. The EU Member States may impose more stringent requirements and define exposure limits. Therefore, this CEN reports gives recommendations on the process and the management, not by telling the user what to do when, but by providing checklists instead.

Furthermore, this CEN Technical Report gives an outline for other recommendations on selection, use, care and maintenance for other documents for types of protective clothing.

The information in this Technical Report has been produced to assist employers (or the person who advises the employer such as suppliers of PPE or services, inspection, insurance companies etc.) in making the necessary decisions regarding the selection, use, care and maintenance of protective clothing.

The purpose of this Technical Report is to highlight the main areas that an employer needs to consider. Most paragraphs of this Technical Report contain checklists. All of these lists are provided to give guidance only and are not exhaustive.

This Technical Report may serve as guidance and checklists when the company is preparing its own management system or program for protective clothing.

Normative references are not provided in this Technical Report. All references are of an informative nature only.

AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND STANDARD

Occupational protective clothing

Part 1:

Guidelines on the selection, use, care and maintenance of protective clothing

1 Scope

This Technical Report sets out guidance for the selection, use, care and maintenance of clothing designed to provide protection to the wearer. The guidance set out in this Technical Report are intended for all types of protective clothing and may be completed by additional specific guidelines for clothing designed to address specific risks.

2 Terms and definitions

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

2.1**hazard**

situation which can be the cause of harm or damage to the health of the human body

2.2**risk**

combination of the frequency, or probability, of occurrence and the consequence of a specified hazardous event

2.3**selection**

process of determining the type of protective equipment (garments) that is necessary for the required protection

2.4**use**

application of protective clothing including its limitations

2.5**care**

to keep in good working order, including procedures for cleaning, decontamination and storage

2.6**maintenance**

to preserve from loss or deterioration, to include procedures for inspection, repair and ultimate removal from service

3 Selection**3.1 General**

European Directive 89/656/EEC defines obligations of employers as regards selection of PPE. In particular, it mentions in section II – articles 4 and 5 that before choosing a PPE, the employer is required to assess the PPE he intends to use. This assessment shall involve:

- analysing and assessment of risks that can not be avoided by other means;
- definition of the characteristics which PPE must have in order to answer to these risks;
- assessment of the characteristics of PPE available.