AS/NZS 4824:2021

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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Protective clothing for firefighters — Laboratory test methods and performance requirements for wildland firefighting clothing (ISO 15384:2018, MOD)

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This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard™ was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF-049, Firefighters' personal protective equipment. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 14 July 2021 and by the New Zealand Standards Approval Board on 7 July 2021.

This Standard was published on 23 July 2021.

The following are represented on Committee SF-049:

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Australian Fashion Council
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AWTA Product Testing (Testing Interests Australia)
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS/NZS 4824:2020.

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ISBN 978 1 76113 447 0

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Protective clothing for firefighters — Laboratory test methods and performance requirements for wildland firefighting clothing (ISO 15384:2018, MOD)

First published as AS 4824 (Int)—2001.
Jointly revised and designated as AS/NZS 4824:2006.
Second edition AS/NZS 4824:2021.

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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee SF-049 Firefighters' personal protective equipment, to supersede AS/NZS 4824:2006, *Protective clothing for firefighters—Requirements and test methods for protective clothing used for wildland firefighting (ISO 15384:2003, MOD).*

The objective of this document is to specify methods of test and minimum performance requirements for personal protective clothing, designed to protect the wearer's body, except for the head, hands, and feet, that is worn during wildland firefighting and associated activities. This clothing is not intended to provide protection during fire entrapment. This document covers the general design of the garment, the minimum level of performance for the materials employed and the methods of test to determine these levels.

The modifications in this document provide reference to the minimum safety performance requirements for firefighters' protective clothing while undertaking wildland firefighting activities within broader Australian and New Zealand climatic circumstances.

Where appropriate, the modifications ensure consistency with, and build direct links to, other relevant Australian and New Zealand firefighters' clothing Standards and in certain cases, introduce increased minimum performance levels that further improve firefighter safety.

This document is not applicable to clothing for use in situations encountered in structural firefighting (AS 4967), rescue (ISO 18639 series) or where a high level of infrared radiation is expected (ISO 15538 or EN 1486), nor does this document cover clothing to protect against chemical, biological, electrical or radiation hazards. This document does not provide protection against high mechanical risks such as for protection when using chainsaws.

The major changes in this edition are as follows:

(a) Clause 4.6 — Addition of specified pattern configurations and minimum performance criteria for the attachment of high visibility trim to the outermost surface of the personal protective clothing.

(b) Clause 7.4 — Introduction of minimum abrasion resistance performance applicable to the outer shell material.

(c) Clause 9.4 — Introduction of innocuousness acceptability criteria applicable to all components of the personal protective clothing.

(d) Clause 7.1 — Increased minimum tensile strength performance of outer shell material.

(e) Clause 7.2 — Increased minimum tear strength performance of outer shell material.

(f) Clause 7.3 — Increased minimum strength of main seams in the outer shell construction.

This document is an adoption with national modifications, and has been reproduced from, ISO 15384:2018, *Protective clothing for firefighters — Laboratory test methods and performance requirements for wildland firefighting clothing*. The modifications are additional requirements and are set out in Appendix ZZ, which has been added at the end of the source text.

Appendix ZZ lists the variations to ISO 15384:2018 for the application of this document in Australia and New Zealand.

As this document has been reproduced from an International Standard a full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards that are identical adoptions of international normative references may be used interchangeably. Refer to the online catalogue for information on specific Standards.

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The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices or annexes to which they apply. A “normative” appendix or annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix or annex is only for information and guidance.

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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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 94, *Personal safety — Protective clothing and equipment*, Subcommittee SC 14, *Fire-fighters' personal equipment*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition of ISO 15384:2003 which has been technically revised.

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Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide minimum performance requirements for protective clothing designed for use for extended periods during wildland firefighting activities. The minimum performance requirements and methods of test for personal protective equipment (PPE) covering the head, hands, feet, eyes and ears for wildland firefighting are covered in ISO 16073.

Wildland firefighting involves work primarily in summer temperatures, for many hours in which the firefighter can develop high levels of metabolic heat. Loose-fitting clothing is as important as the fire resistance of materials in preventing serious burn injury. Clothing that is tight-fitting poses a danger to the wildland firefighter from radiant heat and heat stress, while, at the same time, diminishing the firefighter's ability to perform. Consequently, the protective clothing needs to be light, flexible and commensurate with the risks to which the firefighter can be exposed in order to be effective without introducing heat stress to the wearer.

Accordingly, a risk assessment (ISO/TR 21808) needs to be undertaken to determine if the clothing covered by this document is suitable for its intended use and the expected exposure. This document does not cover clothing for use in higher risk situations, where clothing complying with ISO 11999-3 or EN 469 (structural firefighting) or even ISO 15538 or EN 1486 (firefighting with reflective outer surface), is more suitable, nor does this document cover clothing to protect against chemical, biological, electrical or radiation hazards. This document does not cover risks related to rescue operations that are covered in ISO 18639 or EN 16689.

The risk assessment needs to include what additional personal protective equipment is necessary for the head, hand and feet. In some situations, respiratory protection may also be required.

Firefighters need to be trained in the use, care and maintenance of the protective clothing covered by this document, including an understanding of its limitation.

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Australian/New Zealand Standard

Protective clothing for firefighters — Laboratory test methods and performance requirements for wildland firefighting clothing (ISO 15384:2018, MOD)

1 Scope

This document specifies methods of test and minimum performance requirements for personal protective clothing, designed to protect the wearer's body, except for the head, hands, and feet, that is worn during wildland firefighting and associated activities. This clothing is not intended to provide protection during fire entrapment. This document covers the general design of the garment, the minimum level of performance for the materials employed and the methods of test to determine these levels.

This document is not applicable to clothing for use in situations encountered in structural firefighting (EN 469 or ISO 11999-3), rescue (ISO 18639) or where a high level of infrared radiation is expected (ISO 15538 or EN 1486), nor does this document cover clothing to protect against chemical, biological, electrical or radiation hazards. This document does not provide protection against high mechanical risks such as for protection when using chain saws.

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 139, *Textiles — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 3146, *Plastics — Determination of melting behaviour (melting temperature or melting range) of semi-crystalline polymers by capillary tube and polarizing-microscope methods*

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

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

ISO 6942:2002, *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 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 15025:2016, *Protective clothing — Protection against flame — Method of test for limited flame spread*

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