

=====

C E R T A L E R T

=====

ADVISORY \* CAUTIONARY \* NON-DIRECTIVE  
INFO: CONTACT CERTIFICATION BRANCH, AAS 310, a-267-8728

March 23, 1994

No. 94-01

TO: AIRPORT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM INSPECTORS

TOPIC CAUTION: NFPA CAUTIONS THAT SOME PROTECTIVE CLOTHING MAY  
HAVE FALSE COMPLIANCE LABELS.

The *National Fire Protection Association* (NFPA), publisher of numerous consensus standards pertaining to airport/aircraft fire suppression requirements and fire fighter safety and health, has informed us that it has received complaints that certain protective garments and protective hoods may be carrying labels falsely identifying them as compliant with the published standards. For details see the attached NFPA News Release.

-- We recommend that this news release be brought to the attention of all sponsors.

It should be emphasized that the only means available to assure that airport firefighter protective clothing will be "**acceptable to the administrator**" per FAR Part 139 is if the individual items meet the appropriate NFPA standard.

DISTRIBUTION: CERTALERT Distribution List



# Fire Safety News Source

BT- 06  
FOR RELEASE:  
March 4, 1994

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:  
Julie Reynolds at NFPA: 617-984-7274

## **NFPA CAUTIONS THAT SOME PROTECTIVE CLOTHING MAY HAVE FALSE COMPLIANCE LABELS**

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), publisher of numerous codes and standards pertaining to fire fighter safety and health, has received complaints that certain protective garments and protective hoods may be carrying labels falsely identifying them as compliant with NFPA 1971, Standard on *Protective Clothing for Structural Fire Fighting*, 1991 Edition.

NFPA advises those purchasing protective clothing to be aware of the following: For a protective garment or hood to meet the requirements of NFPA 1971, it must be certified by an independent third-party certification organization. In addition, the item must carry the label, symbol, or other identifying mark of that certification organization. A garment **that does not bear the mark of an independent third-party certification organization is not compliant with NFPA 1971, even if the garment label states that the garment is compliant.** For further information about certification **and garment** labeling, refer to Chapter 2 of NFPA 1971, 1991 Edition.

- MORE -

**Th** profit source for expert advice, technical information, and timely statistics on all aspects of fire.

Third-party certification is an important means of ensuring the quality of fire service protective clothing and equipment. To be certain if an item is properly certified and listed, the NFPA recommends requiring appropriate evidence of certification from the manufacturer before purchasing.

All NFPA standards on fire service protective clothing and equipment require that the item be certified by an independent third-party certification organization and, as with the NFPA 1971 protective garments noted above, all items of fire service protective clothing and equipment must carry the label, symbol, or other identifying mark of that certification organization. **Any item that does not bear the mark of an independent third-party certification organization is not compliant with the appropriate NFPA standard, even if the garment or product label states that the item is compliant.**

For details of the certification and labeling of protective clothing or equipment, refer to Chapter 2 in each of the following NFPA standards: NFPA 1972, *Standard on Helmets for Structural Fire Fighting*, 1992 Edition; NFPA 1973, *Standard on Gloves for Structural Fire Fighting*, 1993 Edition; NFPA 1974, *Standard on Protective Footwear for Structural Fire Fighting*, 1992 Edition; NFPA 1975, *Standard on Station/ Work Uniforms for Fire Fighters*, 1992 Edition; NFPA 1976, *Standard on Protective Clothing for Proximity Fire Fighting*, 1992 Edition; NFPA 1977, *Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting*, 1993 Edition; NFPA 1981, *Standard on Open-Circuit Self Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire Fighters*, 1992 Edition; NFPA 1982, *Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS) for Fire Fighters*, 1993 Edition; NFPA 1983, *Standard on Fire Service Life Safety Rope, Harness, and Hardware*, 1990 Edition; NFPA 1991, *Standard on Vapor-Protective Suits for Hazardous Chemical Emergencies*, 1990 Edition; NFPA 1992, *Standard on Liquid Splash Protective-Suits for Hazardous Chemical Emergencies*, 1990 Edition; NFPA 1993, *Standard on Support Function Protective Garments for Hazardous Chemical Operations*, 1990 Edition; and NFPA 1999, *Standard on Protective Clothing for Emergency Medical Operations*, 1992 Edition.

Approaching its 100th anniversary, the National Fire Protection Association has led the way to fire safety since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is protecting people, their property, and the environment from the effects of fire and related hazards through education, codes and standards, research, and technical advisory services. The Association publishes the *National Fire Codes®* and the *Learn Not to Burn® Curriculum*. NFPA headquarters is in Quincy, Massachusetts, USA. Contact Julie Reynolds at 617-984-7274.