

## **NFPA 1971, 2007 Edition**

### ***Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*** **Summary of Changes**

As of this writing, the standard is expected to be published in August 2006 with an effective date of September 1, 2006. Manufacturers may no longer make, sell, or distribute 2000-edition product after March 1, 2007. However, dealers may continue to sell any 2000-edition product remaining in their own inventories after that date.

#### **Revised Scope**

- NFPA 1971 will now cover both protective ensembles for structural fire fighting and protective ensembles for proximity fire fighting (previously NFPA 1976). There will no longer be a separate NFPA 1976 standard for proximity ensembles. However, products will either be certified to the structural or proximity requirements, not both. Product labels will identify whether it meets structural requirements or proximity requirements.
- NFPA 1971 now establishes optional criteria for “a single exposure wearing” of protective ensembles with limited protection against specified chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear terrorism agents. (CBRN option.)

#### **Changes to Current Tests**

- **THL** will increase from 130 W/m<sup>2</sup> to 205 W/m<sup>2</sup>. The higher the number, the higher the total heat loss of the composite used in the garment.
- **CCHR** will go from 13.5 seconds to 25 seconds. The Conductive & Compressive Heat Resistance (CCHR) test applies to the shoulder and knee areas.

#### **New Tests**

- **Trim Fluorescence Test:** The acceptable fluorescent colors are Orange-Red, Red and Yellow-Green.
- **Moisture Barrier Light Degradation Resistance Test:** Moisture Barrier must pass a light degradation resistance test to guard against exposure to direct or indirect sunlight or fluorescent light that can be harmful to the protective qualities of your moisture barrier.

**Note:** Despite the moisture barrier’s light degradation resistance performance, turnout gear **MUST** be stored away from direct and indirect sunlight and from fluorescent light, and they **MUST** be inspected often!

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## Summary of Changes to NFPA 1971, continued



### Garment Design Changes

- **Collar Height:** The minimum collar height is changing from 4” to 3”. Manufacturers may make collars of greater height, but collars must be at least 3” high.
- **Trim Position on Chest:** The circumferential band of chest trim will have to be placed within 3 inches above or below the sleeve attachment point.
- **Trim Position on Cuffs:** The lower sleeve cuff trim must be located within 2 inches from the end of the cuff. For staggered trim the lower portion has to be within the 2 inches.

### Garment Design Additions

- **MANDATORY Drag Rescue Device (DRD):** A DRD that meets specific design, strength, and deployment requirements will be required in all structural and proximity coats. This device is used to drag a downed/incapacitated fire fighter to safety.
- **OPTIONAL Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Protection:** In addition to base NFPA 1971 criteria, the standard defines optional CBRN terrorism agent protection requirements. This option applies to entire ensemble: all elements and interfaces must comply with the CBRN requirements in order to be certified for the CBRN option.

#### **CBRN-certified suits are intended only to:**

- 1.) Provide limited protection from a single exposure to specified CBRN terrorism agents.
- 2.) Permit fire fighters to escape and provide limited rescue while escaping. (No reentry.)

### Helmets

- New minimum TPP of 20 for ear covers. Previously there was no TPP requirement for ear covers.
- Goggles or face shields must still be supplied as a minimum but if goggles are supplied they can be removable.
- Moisture barriers are mandatory in proximity shrouds along with revised design requirements for shrouds to improve the fit/interface.

### Gloves

- Two additional glove sizes of XXS & XXL.

### Boots

- Minimum 10” footwear height.
- New requirements also mandate full-uninterrupted barrier protection for the entire height of the footwear.
- Women’s sizing cannot be accomplished by labeling men’s sizes as women’s sizes.