



## National Rural Fire Authority

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### NATIONAL RURAL FIRE AUTHORITY CIRCULAR 2010/01

#### **Amendment to NRFA Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Standard to incorporate Gloves, Goggles and Earmuffs**

##### **Introduction**

Following the release of the Mansfield Burn-over Report there has been advice and discussion on amending the PPE standard to include gloves, goggles, earmuffs and respiratory protection.

The initial recommendations included reference to:

1. AS 2161.6:2003 for gloves.
  - Use of this standard has shown to be more than a minimum requirement and also an unnecessary expense given the alternative products available.
2. NFPA 1977:2005 for goggles.
  - Use of this standard has shown to be limiting in stock available to purchase locally within New Zealand and also an unnecessary expense.
3. Earmuffs: Minimum of Class 4.
  - Status quo.
4. Subject to the completion of relevant research by the Bushfire CRC, the NRFA will develop a set of guidelines for the management of smoke exposure to rural firefighters.
  - For interim information see Bushfire CRC Fire Note Issue 12 February 2007. Available as download at [http://bushfirecrc.com/publications/fire\\_note.html](http://bushfirecrc.com/publications/fire_note.html)

##### **Amendment**

The Version 3 amendment to the PPE NRFA National Minimum Standard for Rural Fire Authorities includes the PPE items; of gloves, goggles and earmuffs of suitable minimum requirements. They are also readily available from local suppliers within New Zealand.

**Note 1:** When these additional items of PPE are provided to rural firefighters they shall be of at least to this NRFA Standard.

**Note 2:** The wearing or not wearing of these additional items of PPE is subject to a hazard assessment undertaken by the firefighter or Crew Leader at the time of involvement.

This Version 3 amendment also has simplified the minimum manufacturing requirements for Rural Fire Incident Management Vests.

See attached amended NRFA Standards - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Incident Management Vests - Version 3 February 2010.

### **Implementation**

This amendment (Version 3, February 2010) **takes effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010.**

### **Standards Approved PPE Items**

As a guide only, the known PPE items that meet this standard and the supplier contacts will be posted on the NRFA FireNet website under Equipment / PPE.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Dudfield', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Murray Dudfield  
**National Rural Fire Officer**

Attached: NRFA Standards - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Incident Management Vests - Version 3, February 2010

Bushfire CRC Fire Note Issue 12 February 2007