

NRFA Standards – Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Incident Management Vests

1. PPE Standards (NRFA 3-01 Helmets / 02 Coveralls / 03 Footwear)
2. Incident Management Vests Standard (NRFA 3-04)

Amended November 2007 to Version 2A

Note: Additional standards included for safety helmets and safety footwear

Amended February 2010 to Version 3

Note: Additional standards included for gloves, goggles and earmuffs

NRFA STANDARDS 3-01 Helmets / 3-02 Coveralls / 3-03 Footwear

Rural Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Purpose: To provide for a minimum standard for the helmet, goggles, coveralls, gloves and footwear component of PPE for rural firefighters.

Contents:

Part A – User Requirement

Part B – Manufacturing Requirement

Part C – Inspection Record

Part D – Performance Test Record

Part A - User Requirement

Items: this standard applies to safety helmets, helmet visors and safety goggles, gloves, coveralls and safety footwear.

Materials used: Shall comply with a national and/or international standard. Being of light weight, heat resistant and durable materials that provide protection to the wearer from radiated and conductive heat exposure and metabolic heat. Capable of being cleaned by domestic cleaning methods and stored in a damp condition without deteriorating.

General Performance: Shall be of an appropriate design and sizing for flexibility, comfort, durability and performance to provide personal protection while undertaking rural fire fighting duties.

Helmets shall comply with a national and/or international standard. Have reflective tape, a chin strap and neck protector fitted.

Visors fitted to the helmet for protection from radiant heat and splash back.

Goggles shall comply with a national and/or international standard. Be heat resistant and have anti-fogging properties.

Note: Goggles or a Visor may be used

Earmuffs shall comply with a national and/or international standard and provide hearing protection from the likes of pump noise.

Gloves shall be of a natural leather with a wrist cuff. Provide protection against abrasion and heat. Maintain performance and be easy to put on when dry or wet.

Coveralls shall comply with a national and/or international standard. Have a high visibility colour and reflective tape. May be of a one piece or two piece design.

Footwear shall comply with a national and/or international standard. Have a minimum of a 260 degree celsius heat resistant sole. Be a medium to high cut (calf height). May be fitted with or without steel toe caps (dependant on the activities being undertaken).

Accessories: The likes of torch and earmuff fittings on the helmet and additional pockets and/or webbing on the coveralls is acceptable providing that any such fitting/s do not compromise the standard.

Other PPE: Providing additional items of fire fighting PPE such as hearing and respiratory protection is recommended. Providing wet weather clothing for personnel loading aircraft with water is also recommended.

Part B – Manufacturing Requirement

Helmets, coveralls and footwear shall be compliant with one of the following standards:

- (a) National Rural Fire Authority national standard (1990 to 2009 issue), or
- (b) Department of Conservation national standard (1988 to current issue), or
- (c) Complies with:

Safety Helmets:

- (i) AS/NZS 1801:1997 Occupational protective helmets, Type 3, or
- (ii) AS/NZS1801:1997 Occupational protective helmet Type 1 and has a fire resistant fabric ear/neck protection skirted fitted to the helmet, and for working in the vicinity of aircraft, a chin strap fitted, or
- (iii) Complies with any other standard embodying the same or more stringent criteria.

Safety Goggles:

- (i) Complies with AS/NZS 1337:1992 Eye protection for industrial applications, and including Section 2.9 Flame propagation, or
- (iii) Complies with any other standard embodying the same or more stringent criteria.

Note: Goggles or a Visor may be used

Earmuffs / Ear Plugs:

- (i) Complies with AS/NZS 1270:2002 Acoustics Hearing protectors, minimum of Class 4 rating, or
- (iii) Complies with any other standard embodying the same or more stringent criteria.

Gloves:

- (i) Shall be of a natural light weight and flexible leather material only and with sturdy stitching. Have a minimum of a 50mm cuff measured from the wrist band.. The leather to be supple enough to operate a handheld radio, yet of sufficient thickness to provide protection against abrasion and heat. To also maintain performance, comfort and fit when dry or wet, or
- (iii) Complies with a standard embodying the same or more stringent criteria.

Coveralls:

- (i) AS/NZS 4824 (Int): 2001 Protective clothing for firefighters - Requirements and test methods for protective clothing used for wildland fire fighting.

Safety Footwear:

- (i) AS/NZS 4821 (Int): 2002 Protective footwear for firefighters - Requirements and test methods, Type 1, Classification 1, or
- (ii) AS/NZS 2210 Occupational protective footwear Part 3, and has a minimum of a 260 degree Celsius rated heat resistant sole, or
- (iii) Complies with any other Standard embodying the same or more stringent criteria.

Part C – Inspection Record

Rural fire fighter helmets, goggles/helmet visor, earmuffs/earplugs, gloves, coveralls and footwear shall be inspected after use or at least 3 monthly in accordance with the manufacturers guidelines.

Note: Inspection requirements can be undertaken as routine equipment checks

The fire authority must hold a record of the three monthly (quarterly) inspections carried out.

Part D – Performance Test Record

Not applicable for a Fire Authority to conduct performance testing on these PPE items.

Rural Fire Incident Management Vests

Purpose: To provide for a minimum standard for identifying the incident management position held at rural fires.

Contents:

Part A – User Requirement

Part B – Manufacturing Requirement

Part C – Inspection Record

Part D – Performance Test Record

Part A - User Requirement

Materials used: Shall be of light weight and durable materials. The outdoor version to be heat resistant, a high visibility colour for day operations and have reflective tape for night operations. The indoor version to be a high visibility colour. Capable of being cleaned using domestic cleaning methods.

General Performance: Shall be of an appropriate design and sizing for flexibility, comfort, durability and performance. To provide identification with the title of the incident management position on the front (small lettering) and on the back (large lettering) of the vest. Pocket/s suitable for holding a note book and/or a small portable radio to be incorporated on the front of the vest.

Accessories: The likes of additional pockets and/or webbing on the vests is acceptable providing that any such fitting/s do not compromise this standard.

Part B – Manufacturing Requirement

All materials used shall comply with relevant standards for heat resistance and high visibility.

Part C – Inspection Record

Shall be inspected after use or at least 3 monthly in accordance with the manufacturers guidelines

Note: Inspection requirements can be undertaken as routine equipment checks

The fire authority must hold a record of the annual inspections carried out.

Part D – Performance Test Record

Not applicable for a Fire Authority to conduct performance testing on these items.