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Fire & Rescue Division
Hazardous Materials Section

BULLETIN # 8 – R.E. SEL # 5.1.4
(Version 1.1)

NFPA CHEMICAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING LABELING REQUIREMENTS for WMD SUBSTANCES

During a typical Haz-Mat Team Type 1 inspection, the inspection team will look and examine chemical protective clothing ensembles to assure they meet minimum NFPA CPC Standards applicable to a Type 1 inventory requirements. The special requirement that applies only to a Type1 inspection is that the CPC must meet additional testing certification for WMD chemicals and substances. Further, the inspection team will verify that the CPC have certifying labeling attached. If there is no certifying labeling attached, the garment, ensemble, or individual item in all likelihood will not be found acceptable.

This bulletin is provided with information we hope will be helpful in assuring that the CPC ensembles being considered for purchase do indeed meet the applicable WMD labeling criteria and will pass inspection.

Garment Ensembles – Vapor WMD Protection – Type 1 Team:

NFPA 1991: The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) mandates in their Standard #1991 that ensembles meeting the testing criteria of a specified standard, including WMD testing criteria, must have a certifying label attached to the inside of the certified suit ensemble. There are no exceptions. Further, a garment certified to NFPA Standard #1991 effective edition year 2005 and thereafter, is automatically subjected to WMD testing criteria that includes five (5) designated chemicals that represent liquid and vapor WMD threats, including sarin agent (GB). Therefore hazardous materials response teams focusing on a Type 1 inspection should assure that their acquisition of garments not only meet the industrial chemical testing criteria of NFPA Standard #1991 but also the WMD testing criteria. The Standardized Equipment List (SEL), Item # 5.1.4 and 5.1.5 both indicate that a minimum of six (6) garments be on hand in the inventory of a Type 1 team, of either item.

If the current model of a NFPA certified 1991 garment does not meet the additional WMD testing criteria, inclusion of a garment that does provide WMD protection is still mandated for certification of a Type 1 hazardous materials team. That can be achieved as follows:
**NFPA 1994:** The NFPA also includes testing criteria for WMD protection in their Standard # 1994. A “Class Two” garment must meet WMD testing criteria that includes five (5) designated chemicals that represent liquid WMD threats, including sarin agent (GB) and sulfur mustard agent (HD). If, per SEL item # 5.1.5, a Type 1 hazardous materials team includes a minimum of six (6) NFPA 1994 certified “Class Two” garments in their inventory, this will satisfy the WMD requirements for SEL item # 5.1.2.

**Typical Label Wording:**
Typical NFPA wording excerpted from a standard reads in-part as follows:

(From NFPA Standard # 1991) – *Each vapor protective ensemble shall have a product label permanently and conspicuously attached to the innermost surface of the ensemble when the ensemble is properly assembled with all layers, components, and parts in place.*

**Certifying Label:**
Therefore, all NFPA compliant garments that have been certified by UL or SEI as having met the testing criteria of the specified NFPA Standard MUST have a label attached. A facsimile of a typical label appears below, and essentially must contain the wording as displayed. For more information regarding NFPA labeling requirements, please refer to the appropriate chapter (usually Chapter Five) in the respective NFPA standard.