



Standard OPS-018
Personal Protective Equipment

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The purpose of this standard is to outline the personal protective equipment to be utilised when operating aircraft utilised by NAFC and its Members for fire and emergency operations.

Aircraft operating on and around fires and other emergencies often work in extreme weather conditions in remote and rugged locations. It is important that that flight crew and crewpersons wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment.

Operators are advised to undertake their own research into the most appropriate design of personal protective clothing for the particular Aircraft or role. Clothing should be designed to provide relief of metabolic heat load whilst providing optimum protection in the event of an aircraft crash involving a fire. If an operator determines that treated cotton firefighter personal protective clothing provides the best solution, Member agencies may be able to make this available to operators “at cost” for the operator’s personnel.

Sustained flight below 1000ft AGL generally means any operations below 1000ft where the purpose of the portion of the flight below 1000ft is anything other than for the purpose of landing or take-off.

When a contract refers to this standard the term “operator” in this standard also includes the “Contractor” as defined in the contract.

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Document Control

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006	NAFC	Initial Draft	

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Operators providing aircraft services must ensure that aircraft provided meet the requirements of this standard.

Requirements of any contract take precedence over requirements of this standard. Any exceptions to this standard will be made at the absolute discretion of NAFC or a Member.

All flight crew, crewpersons, and other personnel, including sub contractors, must be equipped with personal protective equipment that meet all the requirements of Australian civil aviation legislation and regulations, and any relevant safe work legislation.

Personal protective equipment must be worn in accordance with legislation and regulations at all times.

In addition:

- Flight crew and crewpersons must have available, at all times during any period of service, personal effects and requirements sufficient to allow for operations away from the aircraft's operating base for periods of up to six consecutive days.
- When operating at airports, airbases and heli-bases all flight crew and crewpersons must conform with any local requirements for high visibility and other personal protective equipment.
- All flight crew and crewpersons must at all times when the aircraft is operating:
 - wear long sleeved and long legged fire retardant or fire resistant protective clothing extending to footwear and wrists; and
 - wear leather or fire retardant footwear which provides ankle protection and ankle support; and
 - not wear any outer or under garments made from any material with low temperature melting point characteristics, low flashpoint or high flammability.
- Operators must ensure flight crew and crewpersons are supplied with any other personal protective clothing and equipment suitable for the role they are performing, and that personnel wear the personal protective clothing and equipment at all times when performing their role.
- All flight crew and crewpersons operating aircraft in firebombing operations or any other operations involving sustained flight below 1,000 feet AGL must wear fire retardant gloves.
- All flight crew and crewpersons operating aircraft on firebombing operations or any other operations involving sustained flight below 1,000 feet AGL must wear a protective helmet of a standard acceptable to NAFC.