



OPS-018

Personal Protective Equipment



Standard
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1 Background

Personnel conducting aerial firefighting operations may encounter extreme weather conditions and be at risk of exposure to fire. All personnel must wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment. Clothing should provide relief of metabolic heat load whilst providing optimum protection against fire.

Contractors should undertake research into appropriate personal protective clothing.

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.

2 Criteria

Contractors must ensure that flight and air crew, including sub contactors, are equipped with personal protective equipment that meet all requirements of Australian civil aviation legislation and regulations, and safe work legislation.

Personal protective equipment must be worn in accordance with legislation and regulations at all times. Any local requirements for high visibility clothing or other personal protective equipment must be obeyed.

During any period of service flight and air crew must have available sufficient personal effects and requirements for deployment away from the nominated operating base for up to six consecutive days.

When the aircraft is operating, flight and air crew must:

- wear fire retardant or fire-resistant protective clothing that extends to footwear and wrists; and
- wear leather or fire-retardant footwear which provides ankle protection and support; and
- not wear any outer or under garments made from material with low temperature melting point, low flashpoint, or high flammability characteristics.

Flight and air crew operating aircraft conducting firebombing or sustained flight below 1,000 feet AGL must wear fire retardant gloves and a protective helmet of a standard acceptable to NAFC. Sustained flight below 1000ft AGL means any flight other than for the purpose of landing or take-off.