



BULLETIN

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TO ALL UFUA MEMBERS

Australian and International Standards: UFU Work to Protect Firefighter Safety

We are pleased to provide the following update from Mark Gribble, one of the UFUA's representatives in the work of Standards Australia and the ISO (along with Neil Manglesdorf (SA) and Tony Martin (Vic).

Mark writes:

"It has been over two years since our last face to face meeting of SF-49 committee of Australian Standards for Firefighter PPE. However, we have been consistently working through and advancing a range of important safety issues during that time by way of virtual meetings.

By advancing these issues in the Australian committee, it provides impetus to progress them at the International Standards level. **Just some** of the issues advanced over the past few years are:

- Particulate protection for Structural Firefighting Ensembles.
- Enhanced breathability for Structural Firefighting Ensembles.
- Particulate protection for Structural Firefighting Hoods.
- The inclusion of Innocuousness requirements for PPC.
- The creation of a Cleaning and Maintenance ISO Standard for PPE.
- Modification and amendment to provide better clarity of the AS/NZS 4824 *Protective clothing for firefighters - Laboratory test methods and performance requirements for wildland firefighting clothing (ISO 15384:2018, MOD)*.
- Drafting an ISO Standard for CBRN PPE.
- A review of AS/NZ4602 High visibility safety garments.
- Firefighters Footwear.
- Firefighters Helmets.
- Firefighters Gloves.
- SCBA.

One of the key issues for firefighters' safety at the ISO meeting in August in the UK, is the debate on ISO 11999 Part 3, *Protective clothing for firefighters - Laboratory test methods and performance requirements for Structural Firefighting Clothing*. In the current EN Standard for the same PPC, there is a choice of two levels. In my opinion this is dangerous as this PPC is worn in the same working environment. Furthermore, a Standard is required to be a minimum safety level, below which you cannot go. We were successful in amending this to a single level in the Australian Standard a number of years ago. The important issue will be to ensure that we adopt the upper level of testing requirements to ensure that it meets the current and future exposure risks, while still being light weight, have good ergonomic design, "*breathable*" (good evaporative transfer) and fit for purpose. We have independent test results showing that this is very achievable, despite some of the debate coming from a few of the countries in Europe.

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Authorised by National Secretary Greg McConville