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**BS 8617:2019**



**BSI Standards Publication**

**Personal protective equipment for  
firefighters – Cleaning, maintenance and  
repair – Code of practice**

**bsi.**

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### Summary of pages

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## Foreword

### Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 October 2019. It was prepared by Technical Committee PH/14, *Firefighters' personal protective equipment*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

### Information about this document

This British Standard has been developed as a result of concerns regarding the potential link between contaminants on personal protective equipment (PPE) and health hazards to the wearer.

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### Use of this document

It has been assumed in the preparation of this British Standard that the execution of its provisions will be entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people, for whose use it has been produced.

As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations.

It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this British Standard is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

### Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "should".

*Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.*

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary is used (e.g. "organization" rather than "organisation").

### Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

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## Introduction

The purpose of this British Standard is to establish a programme for the cleaning, maintenance and repair of various elements of firefighters' personal protective equipment (PPE), to reduce the potential health and safety risks associated with poorly maintained, contaminated, or damaged equipment. For the purposes of this British Standard, firefighters' PPE is deemed to cover garments, helmets, gloves, footwear and firehoods.

It is expected that all organizations involved in firefighting and associated activities will have a procedure for dealing with contaminants at an incident prior to inspection and cleaning, to prevent cross-contamination and further exposure to contaminants. This British Standard does not give specific recommendations for such procedures.

## 1 Scope

This British Standard gives recommendations and guidance for cleaning, maintenance and repair of firefighters' personal protective equipment (PPE). It covers inspection, testing, cleaning and decontamination, drying, repair and replacement, recording, storage and transportation, and retirement and disposal.

This British Standard is applicable to garments, helmets, gloves, footwear and firehoods, as worn by anyone involved in firefighting and associated activities.

This British Standard is intended to be used by all persons responsible for the cleaning, maintenance and repair of firefighters' PPE and those persons responsible for establishing and managing a programme for these activities.

This British Standard does not cover specialized firefighters' PPE for the following:

- respiratory protective equipment;
- chemical protective clothing;
- garments required for protection against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials;
- marine and water activities.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes provisions of this document<sup>1</sup>. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

PD ISO/TR 19591, *Personal protective equipment for firefighters – Standard terms and definitions*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard, the terms and definitions in PD ISO/TR 19591 apply.

<sup>1</sup> Documents that are referred to solely in an informative manner are listed in the Bibliography.