



CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire and Rescue Division
3650 Schriever Ave
Mather, CA. 95655
Phone (916) 845-8711
Night-Weekends: (916) 845-8911
Fax: (916) 845-8396



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Fire & Rescue Division Hazardous Materials Section

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NFPA CHEMICAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING LABELING REQUIREMENTS for BOOTS

During a typical Haz-Mat Team Type 1, 2, or 3 inspection, the inspection team will look and examine individual CPC items such as boots to assure they meet minimum NFPA CPC Standards. Boots that are to be worn in conjunction with NFPA certified 1991, 1992, or 1994 garments must also meet NFPA CPC certification requirements. If there is no certifying labeling attached or imprinted upon the boot, or a copy of the original label previously attached on or stuffed into the boot upon delivery can be provided, the 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 boots being considered for purchase do indeed meet the applicable labeling criteria and will pass inspection.

Boot Labeling Requirement:

NFPA 1991: The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) mandates in their Standard # 1991 that boots meeting the testing criteria of a specified standard, including WMD testing criteria, must have an accompanying label. There are no exceptions. The Standardized Equipment List (SEL), Item # 6.2.1 indicates that a minimum of one pair of boots be on in the inventory for each assigned member. This will require that five (5) be ready for inspection for a Type 3 and a Type 2 team, and seven (7) be ready for inspection for a Type 1 team.

Typical Label Wording:

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

(From NFPA Standard # 1991) – *Each glove and footwear element shall have a product label attached to the element, or printed upon or inserted in the smallest unit of packaging of that element.*

Placement of Label:

Most boots certified as meeting the requirements of NFPA Standard # 1991 are imprinted on the outside of the boot. An example is provided and the conclusion of this bulletin. However, it has been discovered that there are some boot manufacturers that are not imprinting their certifying label upon the boot. Instead, they have elected to attach a label to the boot in a manner that allows for it to be

removed (perforations or break-away plastic tag), or, to insert or stuff the certifying label into the interior of the boot.

Do Not Discard The Label:

Provision of a detachable or separate label for the certified boot presents a problem. It is easily lost, misplaced, or discarded. Once this occurs, there is no way to verify that the boot(s) on hand do indeed meet NFPA testing and certification. It is highly recommended that at least one of the detachable or separate labels be retained in a file on board the response unit. Provision of this label will aid the inspection team to verify compliance with NFPA requirements.

Certifying Label:

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

