



BSI Standards Publication

Protective clothing for firefighters — Performance requirements for protective clothing for firefighting activities

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 469:2020. It supersedes BS EN 469:2005, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PH/3/2, Heat and Flame Personal Protective Equipment.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

BSI, as a member of CEN, is obliged to publish EN 469:2020 as a British Standard. However, attention is drawn to the fact that during the development of this European Standard, the UK committee voted against its approval.

The UK committee is of the opinion that the minimum performance requirements recommendations for Level 2 given in EN 469:2020 are lower than those required for extreme conditions of heat and flame encountered when fighting fires and undertaking rescues from fires within structures.

The UK committee advises UK users to carefully consider whether the performance requirements as set out in this new edition of EN 469 are adequate.

When considering the performance that may be needed in the UK, the UK committee recommends an increase in the minimum levels of protection against heat transfer (flame) and heat transfer (radiant heat), which should be balanced with increased breathability (water vapour resistance). Increases in tensile strength, residual tensile strength, tear strength and water penetration resistance may also be considered necessary to meet individual fire and rescue service risk assessments.

The breathability (water vapour resistance) test set out in EN 469 is determined on the core layers of a garment. The introduction of high-visibility markings, additional padding and pockets may have an overall detrimental effect on the breathability of garments and should therefore be carefully considered.

The UK committee emphasizes the importance of robust wearer evaluations so as to ensure that garments meet the expected performance.

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

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2020

ISBN 978 0 539 00216 4

ICS 13.340.10

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

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 August 2020.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication