



2600SEG213 PROTECTIVE CLOTHING STANDARD

1.0 PURPOSE

To establish uniform requirements for the use of disposable personal protective clothing as well as protective clothing made out of cloth or other re-usable materials.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Cross Contamination Safety Bulletin, 1996.

3.0 SCOPE

This Standard applies to all Panama Canal Authority personnel, contractors, and third parties located within the facilities, industrial shops, and areas under ACP responsibility who work with hazardous materials that require the use of protective clothing.

4.0 LEGAL FOUNDATION

This Standard is established pursuant to Agreement No. 12 of the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Authority, Risk Control and Occupational Health Regulations, Chapter I, Articles 8 and 16.

5.0 DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are provided for the purpose of this standard:

5.1 Re-usable Protective Clothing: Clothing made out of 100% Cotton fabric or made out of material treated with fire retardant approved by the Safety and Industrial Hygiene Unit (RSHS). This includes the overalls provided as uniforms.

5.2 Disposable Overalls: Non-reusable synthetic fabric overalls approved by RSHS; also known as disposable overalls.

6.0 GENERAL

6.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Reusable protective clothing must meet Cotton Overall **PPE-CLO-13-19** specifications as described in website <http://imcd-fsw-01.acp/es/ess/especificaciones/ppe-clo-13.doc>.

2. Disposable overall must meet Disposable Overall **PPE-CLO-05-08** specifications as described in website <http://imcd-fsw-01.acp/es/ess/especificaciones/ppe-clo-05.doc>.

6.1.1 Employees that routinely work with flammable substances in confined spaces, or that work in proximity to (at less than safe distance from) energized high voltage equipment, or that perform welding or painting jobs in confined spaces, must wear reusable protective clothing.

6.1.2 Supervisors must provide disposable protective clothing to their workers when these perform jobs with hazardous materials that may be absorbed through the skin or that represent a health hazard if carried home; it must also be worn when required by safety standards or recommended by RSHS personnel.

6.1.3 The unit managers are responsible for enforcing the use of protective clothing as indicated in the different work policies and procedures issued by RSHS.

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6.1.4 The units that provide reusable protective clothing must also provide clothing washing facilities.

6.1.5 The unit and division manager have the authority, if they so wish, to provide reusable protective clothing to any other employee not included in the above categories, but it must not be considered as personal protective clothing; for acquisition purposes, he or she must follow the parameters established by ACP for uniforms.

6.2 WORKING PROCEDURE

6.2.1 Employees must change into protective clothing or disposable overalls at the beginning of the workday and change into clean clothes at the end of the workday or sooner if clothing becomes contaminated.

6.2.2 If the disposable overalls are contaminated or seriously damaged, they must be destroyed and discarded immediately, to prevent reuse. If you have questions regarding which overall must be used, ask the industrial hygiene specialist in your area.

6.2.3 Contractors and third parties working within the facilities, industrial workshops and areas under ACP responsibility, and that meet the provisions of sub-item 6.1.1 and 6.1.2, must also provide protecting clothing of the same or superior quality than the one provided by ACP to its collaborators.

6.3 MONITORING FOR EXPOSURE

6.3.1 RSHS employees shall evaluate the working environment conditions and shall recommend the use of personal protective clothing appropriate for the work to be performed.

6.4 MEDICAL EVALUATION

Not applicable.

6.5 TRAINING

There is no need for formal training; however, supervisors shall inform their employees about the specific uses, in their working area, of protective clothing and its limitations.

6.6 FILE MAINTENANCE AND DATA ACCESS

6.6.1 Evaluation records shall be kept by RSHS.

6.6.2 These may be available to employees in accordance with ACP regulations.

7.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities for ensuring compliance with this Standard are described in the Occupational Health and Safety Management Standard 2600SEG101.

8.0 INQUIRIES

Any information or clarifications on the contents or application of these standards must be requested in writing to RSHS.



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9.0 EXCEPTIONS

Deviations or temporary exceptions regarding compliance with these standards must be requested in writing to RSHS.

10.0 TERM

This Standard shall remain in force until amended or revised.

11.0 REFERENCES

11.1 ACP File Retention Tables, File Administration Section.