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This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Not relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular advises of the publication of two new British Standards, BS 8467:2006 and BS 8468:2006 relating to CBRN PPE and RPD respectively.		

British Standard BS 8467:2006 and British Standard BS 8468:2006

Issued by:

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Addressed to:

The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer

Please forward to:

Procurement Officers
Officers responsible for personal protective equipment (PPE)
Health and Safety Officers

Summary

This circular advises fire and rescue services of the recent publication of two new British Standards, BS 8467:2006 'Protective clothing – Personal protective ensembles for use against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) agents - Categorisation, performance requirements and test methods' and BS 8468:2006 'Respiratory protective devices for use against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) agents — Part 1: Positive pressure, self-contained breathing apparatus — Specification'.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Fire and Rescue Services are advised of the recent publication of two new British Standards, BS 8467:2006 'Protective clothing - Personal protective ensembles for use against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) agents - Categorisation, performance requirements and test methods' and BS 8468:2006 'Respiratory protective devices for use against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) agents - Part 1: Positive pressure, self-contained breathing apparatus – Specification'.
- 1.2 BS 8467 is intended to be used in conjunction with BS 8468, which will be published in seven parts (see 3.2 below). At this moment only 'Part 1: Positive pressure, self-contained breathing apparatus' has been published.

2.0 BS 8467:2006

- 2.1 BS 8467 specifies performance requirements for personal protective ensembles intended to be used during rescue, evacuation, escape, hazard containment, decontamination and similar associated activities by first responders, fire, ambulance, police and associated civilian agencies and workers, for protection during CBRN events.
- 2.2 This standard has been prepared using, wherever possible, existing British and European standards as a base in order to more easily facilitate both the availability of testing facilities and the CE marking process.
- 2.3 The standard covers a variety of ensembles intended to provide varying levels of protection from chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, selected biological warfare agents and contamination by radioactive particles. It is assumed that an equivalent amount of protection from radioactive particles will be provided as a result of the protection that is provided from chemical agents.
- 2.4 The standard does not cover ensembles intended to provide protection from ionizing radiation, i.e. beta and gamma radiation, and for which no currently available chemical protective clothing will offer protection. Ensembles conforming to this standard might be suitable for use in situations other than those involving the specific CBRN agents identified in the standard. Information supplied by the ensemble suppliers or individual component manufacturers will indicate such additional possible performance applications.
- 2.5 Some typical anticipated environments and activities for which the various categories of ensemble could be used are also provided.
- 2.6 The standard identifies categories of ensembles, their associated performance requirements and test methods in order that ensembles can be categorised including both material specific requirements and whole ensemble testing.
- 2.7 The categories of ensemble have been selected based upon the anticipated activities expected to be undertaken by personnel, and the associated physiological demands, together with the knowledge of ensembles currently available.

2.8 Ensembles that conform to this standard are designed to be used with respiratory protective devices (RPD). This standard does not identify the specific performance requirements for such respiratory protective devices. However some additional compatibility requirements for the respiratory element when it is used as part of the ensemble are included in this Standard. BS 8468 (all parts) will provide the performance requirements specific to the respiratory devices to be used in conjunction with the ensembles identified in this standard.

3.0 BS 8468

3.1 BS 8468 specifies performance requirements for respiratory protective devices intended to be used during firefighting, rescue, evacuation, escape, hazard containment, decontamination and similar activities by first responders, fire, ambulance, police and associated civilian agencies and workers, in areas containing and contaminated by CBRN agents.

3.2 BS 8468 will be published in seven parts as follows:-

- Part 1: Positive pressure, self-contained breathing apparatus - Specification;
- Part 2: Negative pressure air purifying devices with full face mask - Specification;
- Part 3: Escape hoods - Specification;
- Part 4: Powered air-purifying respirators - Specification;
- Part 5: Dual-mode apparatus - Specification;
- Part 6: Positive pressure compressed airline equipment - Specification;
- Part 7: Closed circuit breathing apparatus - Specification

3.3 Currently only Part 1: Positive pressure, self-contained breathing apparatus has been published, which specifies requirements for positive pressure, self-contained, open-circuit breathing apparatus (SCBA) intended to be used as described in **3.1**.

3.4 SCBA conforming to this standard might be suitable for use in situations other than those involving the specific CBRN agents identified in the standard.

3.5 SCBA according to this standard shall be positive pressure equipment conforming to BS EN 137, and conforming to the inward leakage specified in this standard, and conforming to the chemical agent penetration and permeation resistance specified in standard. The face-piece shall conform to BS EN 136:1998 class 3.

4.0 Further Information

- 4.1** BS 8467:2006 (ISBN 0 580 48869 1) and BS 8468 - 1:2006 (ISBN 0 580 48086 0) can be purchased from British Standards Institution Customer Services, telephone 020 8996 9001 fax 020 8996 7001 and e-mail orders@bsi-global.com They are also available from the BSI website at <http://www.bsi-global.com>

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