



Number 31 | May 2008

Maintenance and Replacement of Aviation PPE.

PURPOSE

A considerable amount of flying has been conducted by agency flight personnel over the last few seasons. It is timely that all personnel check the condition of their aviation PPE.

The following should be checked for each item:

Flight Gloves:

- worn, ill fitting, torn or split.

Flight Helmets:

Check:

- condition of ear phones, ear cups and seals – spilt, damaged; *or*
- helmet shell cracked (not just paint crazing); *or*
- absorbing liner or liner cover - torn or sweat damage; *or*
- polystyrene energy-absorbing liner - damaged or compromised; *or*
- damage to tension / chin straps; *or*
- ear phone, microphone lead/wires exposed/damaged; *or*
- visor damaged; *or*
- microphone damaged or grub screws missing.

Comment: The original flight helmets were purchased in 2000 with others progressively purchased since then. Whilst the helmet shells do not deteriorate with time, they can be impact damaged and the inner shell and comms equipment will wear and may become defective.

The restraining straps can deteriorate with sweat or become soiled from dirt, oil, fuel etc.

Maintenance or repairs to helmet integrity or inner liners can only be conducted by a technically qualified person.

Almost all DSE/PV flight helmets remain the property of Land & Fire Management.

Repairs and maintenance are the responsibility of the home Area/District.

Flight Suits:

- aged; stained / soiled; *or*
- torn, broken zips; *or*
- ill fitting.

Comment: The original woollen flight suits were manufactured in 1994 with the first of the Nomex® suits manufactured in 1996.

Many woollen suits have worn to the point that they will offer no fire protection to the wearer.

Nomex material over time “loses” some of its protective qualities as the fire protection material begins to wear thin and discolour.

While no specific time life exists for woollen or Nomex® flight suit life, many Agency suits would be well past what is considered to be a “fair and reasonable” fire protective condition.

REPLACEMENT OR MAINTENANCE

Flight Gloves:

Approved Nomex® flight gloves can be purchased on-line from Sisley clothing (NSW) at:

- <http://www.sisleyclothing.com.au/>

(please check your size before ordering).

Flight Suits:

“Green” proban treated cotton flight suits can be purchased from the DSE Fire Equipment Development Centre - Altona North. (please check Altona for the sizes before ordering).

Flight Helmets:

Flight helmets can be checked and refurbished (not repainted) by John Berman or Fiona Ritchie of Safety Equipment Technical Solutions (SETS).

- info@sets.com.au or (03) 98787158.
6 Rialton Ave, Blackburn Nth.

Contact John or Fiona before you drop off any helmet and ensure you specify what work needs to be done.

CFA personnel should contact David Paton of the SAU with regard maintenance or replacement of CFA aviation PPE.

Contact Officer:

Bryan Rees
Manager Aviation Training & Safety
State Aircraft Unit.