

To all Fire commanders and other responsible for
personal protective equipment firefighters,

February 14, 2018

We invite you for a conference on 29th March 2018 to exchange critical topics on product requirements for firefighters' personal protective equipment (PPE).

In future problems are foreseen in standardisation of firefighters' personal protective equipment (PPE). There are many differences in requirements between European (EN) and International (ISO) standards. These can be essential differences and depending on which requirements will be chosen it can have impact on the health and safety of the firefighters. To overcome these problems more and more standards will be harmonized as EN-ISO standards. Sometimes this leads to unnecessary and unexpected increases in requirements, resulting in unnecessary performance demands of PPE. Our concern is that this leads to health and safety issues of the firefighters, but also to increases the costs.

National firefighting organisations in Europe can influence this as representatives of the end-users. This can be done on an individual basis, but as representatives of all end-users we can provide a stronger input on the standards. At the moment only a very few countries have strongly organized the end-users input in the (Inter-)national standardisation committees. However in the near future we like to improve our input by organizing ourselves as a strong party in the (inter)national standardization committees. Closely collaboration in Europe is necessary to make sure that our opinion as end-users (firefighters) is part of the development of standards.

Together with the Federation of the European Union Fire Officer Associations (FEU), the Dutch Institute for Safety (part of the Dutch FireFighting organisation) organises a conference on the above described concerning topics, developments and issues related to the standards for firefighters' PPE.

Several keynote speakers, firefighters as well as manufacturers, that are active in CEN and ISO standardisation committees will present the status of affairs and their view during this conference.

Agenda:

1. welcome
2. purpose of the conference and issues arising
3. standardisation process
4. standards for firefighter PPE
5. running projects - current and future developments on CEN and ISO level
6. possibility of participations for firefighters
7. way forward
8. any other business

We invite you to participate in this **conference on the 29th of March, 10:00 h to 16:00 h, in Vienna**. The conference will be held at the Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (AUVA), 1200 Wien, Adalbert-Stifter-Straße 65. Enclosed to this invitation you find additional travel information.

For the conference itself no additional costs are required, but you have to organise transportation and hotel by yourself. Please send your application to: secretariaatkav@ifv.nl. Please feel free to spread this invitation in your organisation.

Kind regards,

Dirk Hageböiling and Maurice Kemmeren

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