



Oregon

John Kitzhaber MD, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services

Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)

350 Winter Street NE, Room 430

PO Box 14480

Salem, OR 97309-0405

Phone: 503-378-3272

Toll Free: 1-800-922-2689

Fax: 503-947-7461

www.orosha.org

April 20, 1998

Revised: January 12, 2012

Neal A. Senger, Assistant Chief/Operations Officer
Hoodland Fire District No. 74
69634 E. Highway 26
Welches, Oregon 97067

Dear Mr. Senger:

This letter is in response to your March 13th letter in which you ask if your department may continue using protective coats that comply with all requirements of OAR 437-002-0182 except the reference, included in subpart (1 2), to NFPA Standard No. 1971, Protective Clothing for Structural Fire Fighting. Your letter states that your department still has 10 to 15 coats, in good repair, with vertical strips of trim on the front. NFPA Standard No. 1971, 4-1.14.5 prohibits such vertical strips of trim on coats.

Research into why vertical trim on coats is prohibited has revealed two reasons. Appendix A, A-4-1.14.5, NFPA Standard No. 1971, states that the use of vertical trim on the front of protective coats may affect the performance of SCBA in high heat exposure conditions. Larry Horn, Portland Fire Bureau and a member of the Technical Committee on Structural Fire Fighting Protective Clothing and Equipment (NFPA Standard No. 1971), stated that the committee had determined that vertical trim on the front of coats could present a hazard of flame travel under certain conditions involving high heat exposure. He also stated that NFPA Standard No. 1971 applies to the purchase of new equipment, not to equipment already available for use and still meeting the manufacturer's criteria at the time of purchase.

Oregon OSHA's position regarding the use of protective coats with vertical trim on the front, is that coats that have already been purchased and are available for use, which still maintain their protective capabilities and meet the manufacturer's original specification, as well as all other requirements of OAR437-002-0182, will be considered to be in compliance for the service life of the coat.



Oregon

John Kitzhaber MD, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)
350 Winter Street NE, Room 430
PO Box 14480
Salem, OR 97309-0405
Phone: 503-378-3272
Toll Free: 1-800-922-2689
Fax: 503-947-7461
www.orosha.org

For further information contact our technical section at 378-3272. You are also invited to see the Oregon OSHA pages on the Internet at www.orosha.org.

Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Schuster



Oregon

John Kitzhaber MD, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services

Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)

350 Winter Street NE, Room 430

PO Box 14480

Salem, OR 97309-0405

Phone: 503-378-3272

Toll Free: 1-800-922-2689

Fax: 503-947-7461

www.orosha.org

Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division