

# WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE PROTECTIVE APPAREL (INDUSTRIAL HOODS, FACE MASKS, and GARMENTS)

This WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE provides the end user with important information about safe use, care, and maintenance and should be retained for further reference.

To be removed by the end user only.

## DANGER

Before wearing your protective apparel, you are advised to review this WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE. By wearing this protective apparel you are confirming that you have read and completely understand the information and instructions provided.

**Do NOT use this protective apparel if you have NOT read and understand this WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE.**  
**Do NOT use this protective apparel if you have NOT read and understand the information on the product label.**  
**Do NOT use this protective apparel if you have NOT been trained and supervised for its proper use.**

This protective apparel will NOT protect you from all hazards under all conditions.

This protective apparel must be worn as part of a complete protective ensemble. It is the responsibility of your department or organization to determine the suitability of this apparel for its intended use, and when this apparel must be worn together with other ensemble elements, and to ensure that the selected ensemble elements work together to provide the intended protection.

You must properly care for, clean, inspect, store and maintain this protective apparel according to the recommended instructions in this guide in order for the protective apparel to provide effective protection.

**YOU MAY SUSTAIN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE SPECIAL TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE TO CORRECTLY USE THIS PROTECTIVE APPAREL, AND/OR HAVE NOT READ THIS WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE.**



In accordance with California's PROP 65, this product may contain a chemical/component that is known to the state of CA to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. For more information regarding PROP 65, visit [www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65.html](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65.html)



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## REVIEW BEFORE USING

Protective apparel meets Cal-OSHA Standards. Protective apparel insulates against heat and cold. Protective apparel maintains protective properties after proper washing and drying.

ARC rated protective apparel complies with NFPA 70E, exceeding the performance specifications of ASTM F 1959/F 1959M-05a. Please refer to label inside protective apparel for ARC rating. ARC RATING (ATPV or EBT) is indicated on label for items that have been ARC tested. If no ARC RATING (ATPV or EBT) noted, then ARC testing has not been completed.

Do NOT use this protective apparel unless and until you have been thoroughly trained by your employer about the dangers associated with working in an electric arc/industrial environment, including safety procedures and the proper use of your protective apparel.

Wearing your protective apparel may increase your risk of heat stress which may cause heart attack, stroke, dehydration or other conditions resulting in injury, death or illness. At the first sign of heat stress, immediately seek medical help. Be constantly alert to the possibility of exposure to heat and other hazards.

## WARRANTY

Your protective apparel is warranted by the manufacturer to be free from defects in material and workmanship for one year provided the garment is properly used and maintained in accordance with this user information guide.

This warranty does NOT cover normal wear or unusual exposures, including the wearing of abrasive close-tolerance accessories (such as voice amplifiers).

This warranty specifically excludes accidental damage, intentional or unintentional abuse, natural disasters, damage caused by the disregard of care instructions, and normal wear.

This warranty does not cover damage due to exposure to ultraviolet light, chemicals, loss of performance due to normal wear or arc flash exposure, or improper use, storage care or maintenance.

This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, expressed or implied, including but not limited to, marketability and/or fitness for a particular purpose. MFA, Inc. shall not be liable for incidental or consequential damages.

**The manufacturer makes absolutely no claims as to the ability of this protective apparel to safeguard the wearer from injury or death.**

Paulson Manufacturing Corporation warrants the ArcShield™ against defects in material or workmanship for one year from the time of delivery. Refer to the Paulson Manufacturing website ([www.paulsonmfg.com](http://www.paulsonmfg.com)) for complete details. ArcShield™ is produced by Paulson Manufacturing. Majestic Fire Apparel is in no way responsible for any claims concerning the ArcShield™. All certifications, testing results and care instructions for the ArcShield™ are provided exclusively by Paulson Manufacturing.



## INSPECTIONS

Though most performance properties of the protective apparel cannot be tested adequately in the field, OSHA regulations require you / your employer to regularly inspect your protective apparel and other safety equipment. Your department or organization should have a compliant, systematic, routine and regularly scheduled inspection. Full written documentation of these inspections should be kept. Inspect your apparel prior to its first use and following every use.

**BEFORE FIRST USE INSPECTION:** Prior to using the protective apparel for the first time, ensure that protective apparel does NOT have any construction flaws or was damaged when being put into service.

**ROUTINE INSPECTIONS:** Upon inspection, if any of the below conditions exist, without delay alert the supervisor of your department or organization, and request a determination on the continued service-ability of your protective apparel.

Prior to every use, INSPECT your protective apparel for:

- \* soiling and/or contamination,
- \* physical damage such as, but NOT limited to, rips, holes, tears, frays, abrasions or cuts,
- \* thermal damage such as, but NOT limited to, charring, burn holes, melting, degradation and discoloration of any layer,
- \* seams (stitches) integrity – no broken or missing stitches,
- \* elastic integrity (if applicable) – ensure the elastic has NOT become overextended,
- \* shrinkage,
- \* label legibility – labels should NOT be removed, and information/markings should be legible,
- \* questionable appearance or characteristics

## CARE, MAINTENANCE, CLEANING, AND STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

**PROPER CARE, MAINTENANCE, CLEANING AND STORAGE:** It is important that you keep your protective apparel clean, free of contamination, properly maintained and correctly stored at all times. Protective apparel that are dirty or contaminated pose significant hazards. The wearing of soiled or contaminated protective apparel can cause acute or long-term health hazards. Many contaminants can be absorbed through/by the skin and some are carcinogenic. Many contaminants are flammable. Protective apparel that are soiled do NOT provide adequate protective performance or requirements. If cleaned and maintained properly, protective apparel will continue to offer their protective properties, but will NOT do so indefinitely.

Use either hand cleaning or machine cleaning depending on the availability of the correct equipment and procedures. In general, machine cleaning is preferred over hand cleaning. Apply sanitization as needed for biological contamination. All cleaning and sanitization should be subject to preventative measures and precautions listed below.

**CLEANING AND SANITIZATION PREVENTIVE MEASURES / PRECAUTIONS:** Improper cleaning can severely damage protective apparel.

- \* DO NOT USE CHLORINE BLEACH OR DETERGENTS CONTAINING CHLORINE (such substances can compromise the protective qualities of your protective apparel by rapidly breaking down hood materials)
- \* DO NOT USE FABRIC SOFTENERS OR DETERGENTS CONTAINING FABRIC SOFTENERS
- \* DO NOT WASH YOUR PROTECTIVE APPAREL WITH PERSONAL ITEMS
- \* DO NOT COMMERCIALY DRY CLEAN
- \* DO NOT LINE-DRY IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT
- \* DO NOT STORE IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT
- \* DO NOT USE A TOP LOADING WASHING MACHINE
- \* DO NOT WASH YOUR PROTECTIVE APPAREL WITH OTHER GARMENTS WITH HOOK AND LOOP CLOSURE TAPE
- \* DO NOT WASH YOUR PROTECTIVE APPAREL WITH YOUR WORK UNIFORM OR PERSONAL LAUNDRY
- \* DO NOT USE HARSH (HIGH ALKALINE) DETERGENTS OR SOLVENTS AS CLEANING AGENTS (any cleaning agent must have a pH no lower than 6.0 and no higher than 10.5)
- \* DO NOT USE WASH TEMPERATURES THAT EXCEED 105°F (unless required for specialized cleaning)
- \* DO NOT USE DRYER TEMPERATURES THAT EXCEED 105°F
- \* ALWAYS TREAT PROTECTIVE APPAREL AS BEING CONTAMINATED (wear protective gloves, goggles or a faceshield, and an apron; wear a respirator if heavily soiled or contaminated)



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**HAND CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS:** use a utility sink or other container of sufficient size with the following procedures:

1. Fill the utility sink or container with water no warmer than 105°F and a mild detergent at the detergent manufacturer's recommended ratio of detergent to water.
2. Allow to presoak for a period of at least 10 minutes.
3. Lightly rub the material together, starting with the exterior and then turning inside out and similarly rub the interior material against itself. A soft wash cloth can also be used for washing the protective apparel.
4. DO NOT stretch or wring out as this will distort and damage the protective apparel.
5. Thoroughly rinse following washing. If using a separate container rather than a utility sink, a separate container with clean warm water can be used for this purpose.
6. Following rinsing, air dry in a well-ventilated area by laying on a drying rack or other surface that helps promote draining of water.

**MACHINE CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS:** Washing machines and dryers may be used, but only under special conditions. Wash your protective apparel only with other protective apparel. Do NOT wash your protective apparel with garments with hook/loop closure tape as this will damage your protective apparel.

Use the following procedures if **MACHINE WASHING AND DRYING:**

1. Choose a washing machine that is used for cleaning protective apparel. Only use a front-loading washer/extractor, as these machines are less likely to physically damage clothing and can be programmed for specific water levels, temperatures, and times. Do NOT use a top loading washing machine.
2. Brush off any loose debris with a soft bristle brush. Should any debris or materials be adhered to the components/fabric of the protective apparel, remove the protective apparel from service until it can be professionally inspected and/or cleaned to a serviceable condition.
3. Pre-treat heavily soiled or spotted areas using a suitable pre-spotting agent or cleaner.
4. Unless otherwise instructed, load machine to no more than 80% of the manufacturer rated capacity. Overloading will result in inefficient cleaning.
5. Use mild wash settings with warm water temperature (NOT to exceed 105° F).
6. Use a regular mild detergent in a volume according to the detergent supplier's instructions.
7. If using a machine for drying, tumble dry low-heat setting (NOT to exceed 105° F) or lay on a drying rack or other surface in a well-ventilated, cool, shaded area – NOT IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT.
8. Inspect protective apparel before putting it back into service. If protective apparel does not appear clean, attempt to wash again or seek advice from your department or organization if the protective apparel can remain serviceable.

**SANITIZATION:** When exposed to biological contamination, such as blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious materials including aerosols, protective apparel must be sanitized to inactivate or kill the harmful bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms before cleaning. Sanitization may be accomplished either manually or in conjunction with machine cleaning using a washer/extractor.

**SELECTION OF SANITIZER:** Use an EPA-registered disinfectant where a list of these disinfectants can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants>

Where known bacteria, viruses, or fungi are of a concern, choose a disinfection that is known to be effective against that specific microorganism. Ensure that any selected disinfectant can be used as a laundry additive and will not harm protective apparel materials with repeated use. Beware that some disinfectants rely on bleach and bleach-like chemicals and therefore are not suitable for sanitizing. Check with the supplier or obtain the complete labeling of the product for its proper use. This information can be obtained by using the manufacturer/supplier name, product name, or EPA registration number through the following EPA website link:

<https://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=PPLS:1>



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### **MANUAL SANITIZATION:**

1. Use a soak tank or other vessel that is large enough to hold the protective apparel to be sanitized.
2. Fill the vessel with water and the selected EPA-registered sanitizer added at the concentration specified by the supplier.
3. Place the entire protective apparel in the sanitizer/water solution with all portions immersed.
4. Leave the protective apparel in the tank or vessel for a period of time indicated by the sanitizer instructions.
5. Subject the protective apparel to cleaning by hand washing or machine washing as described above.

**WASHER-EXTRACTOR BASED SANITIZATION:** Place in washer/extractor. Program the washer/extractor to have the following steps:

1. Fill to a maximum of 95°F on a low water setting.
2. Inject the EPA-registered disinfectant.
3. Wash/soak for 10 minutes.
4. Drain for 1-minute
5. Extract on low water setting for 4 minutes.
6. Follow with cleaning by hand washing or machine washing as described above (specialized cleaning allows the use of higher wash temperatures up to 140°F, which can be needed for some difficult to kill microorganisms).

The ArcShield™ can be cleaned using a dampened soft all cotton cloth with a solution of a couple drops of dish detergent to about a half-gallon of cold water then dry with a soft cotton cloth (for the side that isn't anti-fog). Refer to the Paulson website [www.paulsonmfg.com](http://www.paulsonmfg.com) for complete details.

**SPECIALIZED CLEANING:** When exposed to unusual contaminants, including bulk hazardous chemicals, asbestos, fentanyl or other opioids, or bed bugs, or certain forms of biological contamination, seek advice from a knowledgeable individual in your department or organization, or subject matter expert to determine if protective apparel can be adequately decontaminated. Protective apparel that is exposed to unusual contaminants must be isolated and bagged until their disposition can be determined. If the effectiveness of specialized cleaning cannot be determined as removing the contamination, dispose of the protective apparel in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations as hazardous waste.

**STORAGE:** Store protective apparel only when it is clean, dry, and free of contamination. Storing wet protective apparel will promote growth of germs, bacteria, mildew, fungus, or other harmful substances with the potential to cause skin irritation, rashes, diseases and/or illnesses. Wet conditions can also lead to deterioration of protective apparel materials. Keep protective apparel away from potential contaminants such as oils, greases, or other chemical substances. Store your protective apparel in a dry, clean, ventilated area - away from direct sunlight and away from tools or other sharp objects. Do NOT store your protective apparel with your personal belongings or in a personal living area. Do NOT store your protective apparel in a manner that will lead to contamination and/or damage.

## **REPAIRS**

Do NOT attempt to repair your protective apparel. If damaged, report the damage to your supervisor, department, or organization and obtain a new replacement. Repair is NOT practical or recommended.

## **ALTERATIONS/ MODIFICATIONS**

Do NOT attempt to alter or modify your protective apparel. Protective apparel should NOT be altered to accommodate aftermarket accessories. Protective apparel should NOT be modified with aftermarket custom embroidery done by any other organization beyond MFA, Inc. (as MFA, Inc. is the original manufacturer). Any aftermarket alteration, modification, or addition will VOID the WARRANTY and will impact any certification/test performance values.



## RETIREMENT AND DISPOSAL

The decision for the continued service of your protective apparel must be made by a qualified individual within your department or organization. If you have doubts about your protective apparel and its condition, immediately bring this matter to the attention of your supervisor, department, or organization. Protective apparel that are no longer deemed serviceable (withdrawn from service) for reasons of damage, contamination, or other unsafe condition must be disposed of in a manner whereby the protective apparel cannot be reused (such as cutting hood into pieces). Contaminated protective apparel must be disposed of by your department or organization in accordance with federal, state/provincial, or local regulations.



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