

# Quality and Performance PROTECTION IN THE WILD

## **CGSB Certification Program for Fireline Workwear for Wildland Firefighters**

Wildland firefighters demand that the protective clothing they wear will protect them at the fireline. Employers, federal and provincial governments and municipalities are required to minimize the risks to their employees. Manufacturers of protective clothing need a tool to distinguish their quality products from the competitors'. The Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) has the answer. The CGSB Certification Program for Fireline Workwear for Wildland Firefighters lists quality products that fire services and agencies can use with confidence. Here's how it works.

### **Quality Requirements**

Once a manufacturer of fireline workwear applies to the program, its quality system is audited to the internationally recognized quality assurance standard ISO 9001:2015, *Quality management systems - Requirements*. In lieu of an audit, the Canadian General Standards Board also accepts registration of the supplier's quality system by a recognized registrar.

### **Design Requirements**

A CGSB review panel assesses the fireline workwear to the design requirements of the national standard CAN/CGSB-155.22-2014, *Fireline Workwear for Wildland Firefighters*. This standard identifies specific design requirements to ensure the garments will provide the required level of protection when worn in accordance with the label instructions. The review panel includes firefighters and technical experts in the field of textiles and garments, who have no vested interest in the production, marketing or sale of the ensemble.

### **Testing Requirements**

Independent laboratories test the protective clothing to the requirements of the national standard CAN/CGSB-155.22-2014, *Fireline Workwear for Wildland Firefighters*. The standard defines the minimum requirements for the design of the ensemble and all components that make up the garments. It includes requirements for thermal protection, flammability, durability and strength, based on realistic, achievable levels of quality to ensure a safe and dependable product.

### **Certification of Garments and Garment Producers**

Once the CGSB is satisfied that a manufacturer can consistently produce fireline

workwear meeting the standard, both parties enter into a legal agreement. The agreement defines the manufacturer's obligations under the program, including quality assurance in the plant, product conformance to the standard, and use of the CGSB certification mark. The certified product is then issued a unique listing number that along with the CGSB certification mark is prominently displayed on the garment's label. The product is also listed on the corresponding CGSB Certified Program List, accessible by government and by the public.

Thereafter, the CGSB verifies the manufacturer's quality system and tests the certified garment, including certified components, at least once a year.

### **Quality and the Marketplace**

Non-certified fireline workwear may cost less than certified products, and buying the cheaper one may seem to be a smart move. But is it? When you consider the safety of the individual wearing the garment, and the lost time and expenses resulting from injury, the cheaper product becomes more expensive than a reasonably priced certified one. In fact, certified products are competitively priced and dependable.

### **What's Next — Consumers?**

If you are concerned about safety, quality and performance, use certified protective clothing. Choosing CGSB-certified products means that you can buy with confidence. To find out what products are certified and where you can get them, visit the CGSB <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/onqc-cgsb/programme-program/certification/prog/vtps-fwwf-eng.html>.

### **What's Next — Manufacturers?**

If you want your high-quality products to rise above the crowd, CGSB Certification programs can help you soar! To find out more, contact us for your free copy of the *Program Manual for Fireline Workwear for Wildland Firefighters*:

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For more information on the CGSB, visit our Web site at <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/onqc-cgsb/index-eng.html>.