BS 7971-5:2016

BSI Standards Publication

Protective clothing and equipment for use in violent situations and in training

Part 5: Footwear – Requirements and test methods

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Foreword

Publishing information

This part of BS 7971 is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 August 2016. It was prepared by Subcommittee PH/3/12, *Protective clothing and equipment for use in violent situations and training* under the authority of Technical Committee PH/3, *Protective clothing*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Supersession

This part of BS 7971 supersedes BS 7971-5:2004, which is withdrawn, and partly supersedes BS 7971-11:2006.

Information about this document

This part of BS 7971 has been substantially revised in association with the Home Office. The aims of the revision were to amalgamate appropriate content from BS 7971-1, BS 7971-2, BS 7971-5 and BS 7971-11 and to reference the Home Office publication, *Blunt trauma protector standard for UK police (2007)* [N1]. This British Standard contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v2.0.

This full revision of the standard introduces the following principal changes by addition of clauses covering:

- innocuousness;
- sizing;
- marking;
- user information;
- modified resistance to chemicals;
- testing for flame spread; and
- integral metatarsal protection.

Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its requirements are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "shall".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

Attention is drawn to Regulation (EU) 2016/425 [1)] [1].

[1)] Regulation (EU) 2016/425 replaces Directive 89/686/EEC, which remains in use until April 2018.

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Introduction

Footwear used in specialist operational situations and in training is intended to reduce the risk of injury to the user, who might be faced with threats such as impact, heat, flame and the effects of certain liquids, which in some circumstances could also be burning liquids.

In the period of time since the initial publication of the BS 7971 suite of standards, products in general use have evolved to reflect the changing threat and operational needs of the user, including the need for protection from more penetrative chemical threats. In the selection of suitable footwear, optimum protection has to be balanced with operational requirements in an environment where the option of increasing protection levels as a threat escalates might not be viable.

Consideration has been made for new advances in technology identified at the time of revision, particularly in the area of metatarsal protection.

Operational requirements were taken into account during the preparation of this revision.

Principal changes between this and the previous edition are outlined in the Foreword.

1 Scope

This part of BS 7971 specifies requirements and test methods for footwear, which is to be used predominantly but not exclusively by police and prison officers in specialist operational situations and in training and by others who might be exposed to attack and assault in the course of their duties.

NOTE 1 Civilian groups working alongside police or prison services in specialist operational situations might find by risk assessment that this British Standard offers additional protection for such activities and threats not within the scope of other standards.

NOTE 2 This British Standard does not cover external, over-the-boot metatarsal protection which is intended to be considered in the next revision of BS 7971-4.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Standards publications

BS 5131-5.13:1980, *Methods of test for footwear and footwear materials – Part 5: Testing of complete footwear – Section 5.13: Measurement of the strength of stitched seams in upper and lining materials*

BS EN ISO 6942:2002, *Protective clothing – Protection against heat and fire – Method of test: Evaluation of materials and material assemblies when exposed to a source of radiant heat*

BS EN ISO 13997, *Protective clothing – Mechanical properties – Determination of resistance to cutting by sharp objects*

BS EN ISO 20345, *Personal protective equipment – Safety footwear*

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