

Protective gloves for firefighters

The European Standard EN 659 : 1996 has the status of a British Standard

ICS 13.340.10

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted to Technical Committee PH/3, Protective clothing, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Clothing Industry Association
- British Safety Industry Federation
- Health and Safety Executive
- Industrial Safety (Protective Equipment) Manufacturers' Association
- Made-up Textiles Association
- SATRA Footwear Technology Centre

The following bodies were also represented in the drafting of the standard, through subcommittees and panels:

- British Agrochemicals Association Ltd.
- British Apparel and Textile Confederation
- British Leather Confederation
- British Railways Board
- British Rubber Manufacturers' Association Ltd.
- British Textile Technology Group
- Chemical Industries Association
- Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association
- Ergonomics Society
- Home Office
- Institution of Fire Engineers
- London Fire and Civil Defence Authority
- Ministry of Defence
- National Association of Glove Manufacturers
- RAPRA Technology Ltd.
- Trades Union Congress

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Health and Environment Sector Board, was published under the authority of the Standards Board and comes into effect on 15 November 1996

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Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Text affected

The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
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National foreword

This British Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee PH/3 and is the English language version of EN 659 : 1996 *Protective gloves for firefighters*, published by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).

The Technical Committee PH/3 wishes to promulgate its view that the standard is deficient in a number of key areas, these being:

- the heat flux density performance of the gloves is lower than that of the firefighters’ protective clothing;
- there are no requirements for liquid penetration;
- there are no requirements for the performance of wet gloves.

The Technical Committee has taken the view that the radiant heat performance of the glove should be at least the same as required by BS EN 469 : 1995 *Protective clothing for firefighters – Requirements and test methods for protective clothing for firefighting*. It is also well established that the conductive heat performance of gloves can vary if they become wet.

The Technical Committee wishes to encourage manufacturers to inform the end users of the levels and any reduction in performance of the gloves in these key areas.

Users of this standard should note that the CEN Technical Board has requested that the standard is revised immediately.

Cross-references

Publication referred to	Corresponding British Standard
EN 344 : 1992	BS EN 344 : 1993 <i>Requirements and test methods for safety, protective and occupational footwear for professional use</i>
EN 366 : 1993	BS EN 366 : 1993 <i>Protective clothing – Protection against heat and fire. Method of test: evaluation of materials and material assemblies when exposed to source of radiant heat</i>
EN 367 : 1992	BS EN 367 : 1992 <i>Protective clothing – Protection against heat and fire: Method of determining heat transmission on exposure to flame</i>
EN 388 : 1994	BS EN 388 : 1994 <i>Protective gloves against mechanical risks</i>
EN 407 : 1994	BS EN 407 : 1994 <i>Protective gloves against thermal risks (heat and/or fire)</i>
EN 420 : 1994	BS EN 420 : 1994 <i>General requirements for gloves</i>
EN 702 : 1994	BS EN 702 : 1995 <i>Protective clothing – Protection against heat and flame – Test method: Determination of the contact heat transmission through protective clothing or its materials</i>
EN 1486 : 1996	BS EN 1486 : 1996 <i>Protective clothing for firefighters – Test methods and requirements for reflective clothing for specialized firefighting</i>

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