

General Information

The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at Work Regulations 1992 (and other associated Legislation) places a legal obligation on the MOD to ensure that all PPE that is provided is maintained (including replaced or cleaned as appropriate) in an efficient state, efficient working order and good repair.

Furthermore, provision must be made to provide such information, instruction and training as is adequate and appropriate to ensure that the PPE remains in an efficient state, in good working order and is serviceable in accordance with requirements.

Equally important is the responsibility the regulations place on the user of PPE to ensure that in the event it becomes unserviceable and therefore unfit for purpose, that person shall report the matter immediately to their line manager so that it can be replaced.

To ensure the provisions of the Regulations are met and to allow DFTDC to discharge its 'duty of care' to all personnel attending courses are to comply with the instructions below

PPE Requirements

Unless informed otherwise all students attending operational courses [1] at DFTDC are to bring their issued PPE (as listed below) with them.

Firefighting Helmet (1)
Firefighting Tunics (2)
Firefighting Trousers (2 pairs)
Firefighting Flash Hood (1)
Firefighting Gloves (2 pairs)
Firefighting Boots (1 pair)
Under Garments (As issued)

For DF&RS (excluding those detailed below) and RAF FS students, only Bristol Uniforms PPE and Helmets are acceptable. Contract FS students will be permitted to wear whatever firefighting clothing they are issued with by their employer providing it is 'CE' marked and fit for purpose.

PPE which is issued to personnel who undertake retained firefighting duties for a Local Authority Fire Brigade **will not** be accepted at DFTDC.

PPE Log Books

All students **must** bring their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Log Books with them and produce them on the first day of the course. Failure to do so will result in personnel being prevented from undertaking practical training until such time as their PPE Log Book has been produced.

[1] Operational Courses are: Recruit Firefighter, Qualified Firefighter Assessment, CM & WM (Practical), Refresher, Compartment Fire Behaviour and Breathing Apparatus Instructor.

Students from USAFE, Scottish and Overseas Stations

Personnel who are travelling by air to attend courses at DFTDC can make use of PPE from DFTDC Clothing Stores. However due to a limited supply of sizes in stock, you are required to liaise with Clothing Stores at DFTDC as soon as possible. Request for PPE with sizes (boots, tunic, trousers, helmet), specify if female (for female PPE), name, course attending, and start date of course of the trainee are to be submitted to DFRMO-DFTDC-LSFCthgGrp@mod.uk at least 2 weeks before the course commences.

Note: Students are to bring their own Bristol Uniform Flash Hoods and Gloves.

For those students requiring PPE who are not within the Bristol Uniforms contract please provide DFTDC Clothing Stores with:

Height
Chest
Waist
Inside Leg
Boot Size
Helmet or Hat size

Where possible metric sizes should be quoted; existing PPE sizes (eg Size 8) are not to be quoted as they vary between manufacturers. Care should be taken with boot sizes as American and British boot sizes differ.

Other Clothing

All students are to bring clothing suitable for use under PPE, which where issued is to be restricted to the issued garments.

Inspection of PPE

It is the responsibility of the wearer to ensure that all PPE that is worn is serviceable, fit for purpose and fits correctly.

- Firefighting jackets and trousers are not to be tight, nor snug fitting but are to have sufficient air space between the garment and the undergarments to prevent overheating or burns to the wearer.
- Where undergarments form an integral part of the PPE they must be worn.

Instructors will bring these requirements to the attention of students during the arrival brief and will ensure this instruction is being complied with throughout the course. Where necessary (eg. Recruit Courses), Instructors will demonstrate the correct sizing, fitting and maintenance of PPE.

Fire Station Managers are responsible for ensuring the PPE that students take to the Training School meets the standards required above.

Note: Where Instructors are not satisfied that the PPE being used meets the required standards, DFTDC reserves the right to stop a student from participating in operational training.

Defect Reporting

It is the responsibility of all students to immediately bring to the notice of their instructor any part of their PPE that is defective or becomes defective so that appropriate action can be taken. Failure to do so may render that person liable for any subsequent consequences.