



## Investigation Guideline

**Product: Adult Wearing Apparel**

**Appendix #: 23**

**Date Amended: October 2004**

### **I. Introduction**

Investigations are being assigned to provide information about the type of clothing involved in adult clothing ignitions, including incidents that involve melting or smoldering of the garment. **Ignition of clothing being worn by a child younger than age 15 should use Appendix 23A.** This guideline focuses on the involvement of clothing and is intended as an adjunct to the normal investigation procedure and reporting. Attach the Data Record Sheet to a single comprehensive narrative which discusses the relevant information.

### **A. Background Information**

CPSC staff is in the process of updating the specifications of Flammability of Clothing Textiles, 16 CFR 1610, administered by CPSC under the Flammable Fabrics Act. This is a general standard dating back to 1975 that applies to all clothing. The anticipated changes will apply primarily to updating of the testing requirements that are no longer feasible due to changes in laundering and dry cleaning practices.

### **B. Product Description**

This guideline applies to fire incidents (ignition, smoldering, melting, etc ) of all clothing (except shoes, gloves, and hats) being worn by a person age 15 or older. If the clothing is found to be shoes, gloves, or hats, you may terminate.

### **C. Specific Items of Interest**

- Identify the source of the heat or flame that ignited the clothing.
- Identify the type of clothing involved (shirt, etc), its material (cotton, etc), fit, age, size, etc
- Copy clothing labels including fabric content and use and care instructions, and Registered Number (RN #1)
- Describe burning characteristics (smoldering, melting, flames, etc.)
- Specify age, sex, height and weight of the victim

### **E. Headquarters Contacts**

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## **II. Instructions for Collecting Specific Information**

### **A. Synopsis**

Provide a short summary of the incident . Describe the characteristics of ignition (flames, smoldering, melting, etc), the heat source of the fire, the garments involved (shirt, etc), and the age, injury, and disposition of the victim. Keywords to be used in the synopsis: fire, smoldering, melting, clothing, adult.

### **B. Description of Incident Environment**

Describe the scenario of what was going on just before the fire incident occurred. Include a description of all the activities the victim was engaged in during the period he/she was wearing the involved clothing, in particular, anything that might have contributed to the flammability of the garment such as presence of flammable liquid, etc. Describe all clothing being worn and manner of layering. Indicate the source of ignition, activity and relevant characteristics of the injured person or others in the household that explain how the incident happened. Describe the involvement of any flammable liquids, specifying type and amount.

### **C. Description of Interaction Between Injured Person and Product**

Describe the victim's, or other person's, attempts to extinguish the fire. Describe the nature of the burning (smoldering, melting, rapid combustion, etc.), and the extent of damage to the garment. Specify where on the garment that ignition or other damage occurred first. Describe how the fire was extinguished by the victim or others in the household, e.g., smothered with a blanket, etc.

Describe any characteristics of the victim that may have contributed to the occurrence of the incident or the victim's ability to respond to the incident, e.g., mental or physical limitations, use of drugs or alcohol, etc. Diagram the victim's burn injuries (use the anatomical chart included in the most recent NEISS manual).

### **D. Description of the Product**

Describe the garment in as much detail as possible. Copy all available information on the labels, brand name and manufacturer, size, fiber content, material type, general weight, care instructions, FTC registration numbers (RNS and WPLS), etc. Include age of the garment and the nature and frequency of the garment's care, i.e. laundering or dry

cleaning. Specify the construction of the garment including whether the garment was knit, woven, etc. Describe its fit and finish, e.g., smooth, fleece, velour, fuzzy, nubby, etc. Include a similar description of all items of clothing that suffered fire damage during this incident. Specify where and when the clothing was obtained.

A data record sheet is included to provide a convenient checklist of selected items of information desired. However, the data record sheet is not inclusive and a narrative of other relevant features of the garment and what occurred during this incident are required as well.

#### **E. Post-Incident**

Describe the nature, severity (degree of burn) and extent of injury, as well as medical treatment received and expected in the future. Describe property loss to the dwelling. Indicate where the victim was treated, specify name and type of facility as well as its location.

#### **III. Photographs /Diagrams of the Clothing**

Photograph remains of garment. Diagram the ignition point and extent of fire damage. Photograph all labels if possible.

#### **IV. Obtaining Samples and Documents Related to the Investigation**

Obtain copies of medical records describing extent of injury and treatment. If the injury occurred in a fire attended by the fire service, obtain the fire department documents identifying fire cause, incident and casualty reports, and any investigation reports. Obtain Medical Examiners report if appropriate. **Samples of the burned garment are not requested.**

October 2004

## Data Record Sheet Adult Wearing Apparel

Task Number \_\_\_\_\_ Incident Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Victim

1. Age and Sex \_\_\_\_\_

2. Did the victim suffer from any sort of medical condition that may have contributed to the incident or reduced reaction time

\_\_\_\_\_ yes (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ no

\_\_\_\_\_ unknown

3. Did the victim ingest drugs or alcohol that may have contributed to the incident or reduced reaction time? Include effects of alcohol or drugs, legal or illegal, including over the counter (OTC) medications.

\_\_\_\_\_ yes (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ no

\_\_\_\_\_ unknown

### Incident Characteristics

4. What was the heat source involved?

\_\_\_\_\_ stove (cooking); specify fuel/power type

\_\_\_\_\_ gas

\_\_\_\_\_ wood-burning

\_\_\_\_\_ electric

\_\_\_\_\_ space heater; specify fuel/power type

\_\_\_\_\_ electric

\_\_\_\_\_ kerosene

\_\_\_\_\_ gas

\_\_\_\_\_ wood-burning

\_\_\_\_\_ other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ match

\_\_\_\_\_ cigarette

\_\_\_\_\_ lighter

\_\_\_\_\_ fireplace

\_\_\_\_\_ candle

\_\_\_\_\_ other; (specify equipment and fuel/power) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ outdoor fire ( bonfire, trash fire, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ unknown

5. Were any flammable liquids involved (e.g., gasoline or lighter fluid)?  
\_\_\_\_\_yes (specify kind and amount)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_no  
\_\_\_\_\_unknown

6. Where did the incident occur?

\_\_\_\_\_kitchen  
\_\_\_\_\_living room  
\_\_\_\_\_dining room  
\_\_\_\_\_bathroom  
\_\_\_\_\_bedroom  
\_\_\_\_\_outdoors  
\_\_\_\_\_other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_unknown

7. About what time of day did the incident occur? (specify am/pm)\_\_\_\_\_

8. What did the victim do upon discovering that the clothing had ignited?

\_\_\_\_\_ran to another location  
\_\_\_\_\_tried to pat flames out  
\_\_\_\_\_tried to remove clothing  
\_\_\_\_\_dropped and rolled  
\_\_\_\_\_other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_unknown

9. How was the fire extinguished?

\_\_\_\_\_water  
\_\_\_\_\_fire extinguisher  
\_\_\_\_\_smothered with blanket, etc.  
\_\_\_\_\_other (specify)\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_unknown

10. Who extinguished the fire/removed the garment?

\_\_\_\_\_victim  
\_\_\_\_\_other household member (specify)\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_other  
\_\_\_\_\_unknown

11. Did anything other than clothing ignite?

\_\_\_\_\_yes  
\_\_\_\_\_no  
\_\_\_\_\_unknown

## Clothing Description

12. What type of garment ignited/smoldered/melted? ( If more than one, **enter order of ignition next to the appropriate item, #1 etc** )

- \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt
- \_\_\_\_\_ daywear
- \_\_\_\_\_ underwear
- \_\_\_\_\_ pants
- \_\_\_\_\_ jeans
- \_\_\_\_\_ underwear (specify type) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ robe
- \_\_\_\_\_ dress
- \_\_\_\_\_ blouse
- \_\_\_\_\_ shirt
- \_\_\_\_\_ sweater
- \_\_\_\_\_ sweatshirt
- \_\_\_\_\_ sweatpants
- \_\_\_\_\_ leggings
- \_\_\_\_\_ long underwear
- \_\_\_\_\_ nightgown
- \_\_\_\_\_ pajama top
- \_\_\_\_\_ pajama bottom
- \_\_\_\_\_ coat
- \_\_\_\_\_ other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**REPEAT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FOR EACH GARMENT IGNITED.**

Garment type \_\_\_\_\_

13. What was the garment made of?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 100 percent cotton
- \_\_\_\_\_ cotton blend
- \_\_\_\_\_ synthetic
- \_\_\_\_\_ other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ unknown (skip to Q. 23)

14. How did you determine what the garment was made of?

- \_\_\_\_\_ from the tag
- \_\_\_\_\_ from memory of victim or bystander
- \_\_\_\_\_ from general knowledge of fabrics
- \_\_\_\_\_ other (specify)

Report wording of tags if available:

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15. Was the fabric knit or woven?

- \_\_\_\_\_ knit (fabric formed by interlooping yarns; e.g. sweater)
- \_\_\_\_\_ woven (fabric formed by interlacing two yarns; e.g. flannel)
- \_\_\_\_\_ other, describe \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ unknown

16. How would you describe the fit of the garment?

- \_\_\_\_\_ snug fitting
  - \_\_\_\_\_ loose fitting
  - (give short explanation of the fit) \_\_\_\_\_
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17. Describe garment surface texture (smooth, nubby, velour, etc)

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18. What was the garment size? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Who was the garment manufacturer? \_\_\_\_\_

20. How old was the garment?

- first time wearing it
- at most one year old
- more than one year old
- don't know, not new when obtained
- unknown

21. Had the garment been laundered or dry cleaned prior to the incident?

- yes
  - laundered (approximate number of times)
  - dry cleaned (approximate number of times)
- no

22. What part of the garment ignited first (e.g., sleeve of a shirt, hem of a dress)?

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23. How did the garment burn?

- surface flash
- rapidly spreading fire
- melted and dripped
- smoldered
- other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_