



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.**

**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:

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) _____
-

17. Describe garment surface texture (smooth, nubby, velour, etc)

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)?

23. How did the garment burn?

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