



## INFRASTRUCTURE - HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT PROBAN® Treated PPC

26 February 2015

The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) has issued the attached Industry Safety Advice dated 23 February 2015 regarding very recent independent research conducted by CSIRO into the assessment of contaminants in bushfire personal protective clothing (PPC).

PROBAN® treated fabrics used by the NSW RFS, including PPC are tested and certified according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100. This certification demonstrates associated products satisfy the human-ecological requirements of the standard for products with direct contact to skin.

It should also be noted that the Australian Firefighters Health Study recently conducted by Monash University examined cancer and causes of death amongst 232,871 current and former career and volunteer firefighters. The study found there are no statistically significant elevated incident rates of cancers linked to formaldehyde compared to incident rates in the general Australian population.

The NSW RFS and AFAC member agencies participated in a National teleconference this afternoon to discuss the safety advice. A National meeting of AFAC member Health Safety and Welfare and PPE specialist personnel will be convened early next week to explore in greater detail the research and analysis associated with the AFAC safety advice as well as implications for the industry and its members. NSW RFS will provide further information as it becomes available.

Until further notice, NSW RFS members should follow the AFAC recommendations contained in the attached Industry Safety Advice.

**This publication was produced by the NSW Rural Fire Service – Infrastructure in conjunction with Health, Safety & Welfare Section. For further information please contact the safety hotline on 02 8741 5221 or by email [safety@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:safety@rfs.nsw.gov.au). The HSW Section will consult with Infrastructure on any issues reported.**