NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

The professional voice of the
UK Fire & Rescue Service

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# Firefighters Personal Protective Equipment

# Standard, Specification and Requirements

# Structural Firefighting
# Fire Helmet

Please note that this standard is currently under review by NFCC PPE and Clothing Committee



Collaborative PPE Project - May 2016

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## SCOPE

This performance specification describes the requirements for a protective helmet for both male and female firefighters.

The helmet should offer the wearer protection from injuries, which could arise through accidents in the working sector for which the helmet is designed.

The helmet is to be CE marked to BS EN 443:2008 (Type B); *Helmets for firefighting in buildings and other structures.*

Complete with eye and face protection, conforming to: -

BS EN 14458:2004; *Personal eye equipment – Face-shields and visors for use with firefighters*

BS EN 166:2001; *Personal eye protection – Specifications*

## PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

### Description and Use

Provision of a protective fire helmet (including internal eye protection and external full face visor) that meets the general and specific needs of Fire & Rescue Service (FRS) operational personnel.

The product must be suited to the range of structural firefighting, external firefighting and rescue activities carried out during emergency response and training operations. The product must be of such design, robustness, material and specification to meet the needs of these operations. It should also be simple to clean, repair and maintain.

All test performance data must be submitted with tender documents, please indicate compliant and submitted where requested. All documentation to be in English.

Firefighting PPE is designed, following a suitable risk assessment, to protect firefighters from risks that cannot be removed by other means.

One potential emerging risk to firefighter's health is exposure to contaminants as a result of the incidents that they attend; some of these contaminants may be carcinogenic.

All Contractors should be mindful of these emerging risks and as such ensure that the PPE is designed to be easily cleaned and decontaminated. In addition methods for identifying that the PPE may be contaminated should also be considered when designing the PPE.

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| | **1. BS EN 443:2008 minimum performance requirements** | |
| **2.1** | Fire helmet to fully comply with the requirements of BS EN 443:2008, Type B and the requirements of BS EN 166:2001 and BS EN 14458:2004.<br><br>**Required:** Independent Certification from an organisation belonging to United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), or equivalent. | |
| | **Additional Information – Required** | |
| **2.2** | BS EN 443:2008, Annex C: Checking compatibility of PPE (to include breathing apparatus compatibility) | Report to be submitted detailing test results for compatibility testing |
| **2.3** | BS EN 443:2008, Part 7 Information to be supplied by the manufacturer | Details to be submitted.<br><br>To include: - Information, Instruction and Training |
| **2.4** | Lighting | ATEX Zone 1 approved and must be securely attached to helmet.<br><br>Features to include: method to prevent accidental switching and detail of battery life. |
| **2.5** | Decontamination and Cleaning | All elements of the helmet must be easily decontaminated and cleaned. The inner part of the helmet (retention system) must be easily removed and cleaned. |
| **2.6** | Audibility | Report to be submitted detailing test results in terms of any loss of audibility due to wearing the helmet. |
| **2.7** | Role insignia/FRS Badge | Must be able to be added to the helmet without implication on warranty or maintenance agreement. |
| **2.8** | Colour | Must be available in standard UK Fire Service requirements. Additionally Red will be required.<br><br>Discolouration, through extensive use (not withstanding appropriate cleaning), should be avoided by either the provision suitable close fitting covers or through other innovative methods/design |
| **2.9** | Integral communications options | Details and examples to be submitted and included in pricing schedule. |

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| **2.10** | Neck guard options | Details and examples to be submitted and included in pricing schedule. |
| **2.11** | Unique Identification | Details and examples to be submitted and included in pricing schedule.<br><br>Each helmet supplied shall be capable of being uniquely identifiable to enable product traceability, such marking may include unique bar-coding and RFIDs tagging. Method to be durable taking into account the use of the item and the recommended cleaning procedures.<br><br>In addition suitable area for wearer to add their details and for this to be reusable. |
| **2.12** | Ease of Adjustment | Details to be submitted<br><br>Should be able to be fitted without the need for specialist fitting, must have the ability to be adjusted without the need for specialist tools. |
| **2.13** | Ease of Repair | Details to be submitted. Method statements and training videos required. |
| **2.14** | Comfort | Helmet to be comfortable to wear for extensive periods of over one hour without causing discomfort and well balanced (including when any accessories are attached). |
| **2.15** | Anti-Mist Visor | Option to be available if required.<br><br>Details and examples to be submitted and included in pricing schedule.<br><br>To include detail of appropriate, fit for purpose cleaning. |
| **2.16** | Heat reflecting Visor | Option to be available if required.<br><br>Details and examples to be submitted and included in pricing schedule.<br><br>To include detail of appropriate, fit for purpose, cleaning. |
| **2.17** | Equality and Diversity | A broad range of sizes to encompass both male and female wearers and those of differing ethnic backgrounds. |
| **2.18** | Stowage | Method of carrying, protecting and stowing (especially in vehicles) that prevents damage. |

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| **2.19** | Lifing | Provide information, in addition to care and maintenance instructions, as to the expected life of the fire helmet. |
| **2.20** | FR cover | To be offered to protect Contractor's product through extensive training events. Not for normal day to day activities. |