

Understanding FR Rainwear

For workers needing flame resistant (FR) rainwear, there is often uncertainty about the proper type of rainwear to select for their application. There are specific types of flame resistant rainwear which are designed for specific flame hazards.

Since not all FR rainwear is necessarily the same, it is important to clarify what the “FR” claim in rainwear means. There is a lot of confusion around what is being sold in the market place – some FR claims even can be deceiving. To clarify and determine what your needs are, the first step is to determine the type of flame hazard you are trying to protect against.

To help clarify the standards for FR rainwear, it is pretty simple; there are only two.

Electric Arc Protective Rainwear
ASTM F1891: Standard and Specification for Arc and Flame Resistant Rainwear

OR

Flash Fire Protective Rainwear
ASTM F2733: Standard Specification for Flame Resistant Rainwear for Protection Against Flame Hazards.

FR rainwear meeting one or both of these standards will be identified on the product label. **These are the only FR standards that have been developed specifically for rainwear.** Therefore, it is important to select the rainwear which has been appropriately tested to the standard which best meets your hazard.

What are the differences?

To demonstrate this point, look at these visual results of how an improper selection could prove hazardous to a worker exposed to a flash fire.

Left: Brand-X rainwear commonly labeled as flame resistant (FR), however, demonstrated significant melting, dripping, shrinkage, break open, and ignition in a flash fire test.

Right: NASCO PetroLite – ASTM F2733 compliant, no melting, no dripping, no ignition.



For the petrochemical industry ASTM F2733 is the rainwear performance standard that tests product to the industries #1 fire exposure which is a flash fire. This would be a compatible rainwear that you would use with NFPA 2112 daily wear garments commonly required in refineries, pipeline, and drilling applications. Therefore, **you must ask for ASTM F2733 compliant rainwear to protect against flash fire exposures.**

Contact us today!

NASCO Industries or your NASCO Industries' Distributor Sales Representative would like to assist you in selecting the right FR rainwear for your application.

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What's in your Rainwear? You are. Make sure you're protected.

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