

9. **Matters referred from the Fire Fighter Advisory Committee (FFAC), including but not limited to:**
 - C. **Discussion and possible action on proposals regarding firefighting helmets and minimum THL for bunker gear being considered by the NFPA 1971 Committee.**

1971-
(7.2.2)

Log #96 FAE-SPF

Final Action:

Submitter: Tim Durby, Phoenix Fire Department

Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

Garment Composite consisting of the outer shell, moisture barrier, and thermal barrier shall be tested for evaporative heat transfer as specified in Section 8.34 Total Heat Loss Test, and shall have a total heat loss of not less than ~~205~~ **250** W/m².

Substantiation: Heart attacks continue to be a leading cause of fire fighter deaths. In this standard raising the THL will reduce heat stress while fighting fires. Reducing heat stress will help to reduce heart attacks. A good target for THL is 270. Although 270 is a target, a minimum of 250 would be a movement in the right direction. Due to improvements in materials there will still be multiple composites that can meet 250.

1971-
(7.2.2)

Log #70 FAE-SPF

Final Action:

Submitter: Michael F. McKenna, Antelope, CA

Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

7.2.2 Garment composite consisting of the outer shell, moisture barrier, and thermal barrier shall be tested for evaporative heat transfer as specified in Section 8.34. Total Heat Loss Test, and shall have a total heat loss of not less than ~~205~~ 270W/m².

Substantiation: Back in 2000 the IAFF was supporting a THL value of 250 and that value has still not been achieved. It is important not to lose sight that the primary function of NFPA 1971 is to design performance criteria for a structural garment to fight structural fires. The alternatives uses have always included medical aid calls, vehicle extrication and now possibly CBRN, but these alternative uses should never be allowed to override the primary function of the garment- protection during structural firefighting.

1971-
(6.5.2)

Log #71 FAE-SPF

Final Action:

Submitter: Michael F. McKenna, Antelope, CA

Recommendation: Revise text to read as follows:

6.5.2* Helmets shall consist of at least all of the following assembled components:

- (1) Shell
- (2) Energy absorbing system
- (3) Retention system
- (4) Fluorescent and retroreflective trim
- (5) Ear covers

(6) ~~A faceshield or goggles, or both~~

6.5.2.1 ~~Where a faceshield is selected in accordance with 6.5.2(6),~~ The faceshield-goggle component shall be attached to the helmet.

6.5.2.2 ~~Where the goggle component is selected in accordance with 6.5.2(6), the goggles shall be permitted to be unattached, not assembled, to the helmet.~~ The faceshield shall be permitted in addition to goggles.

Substantiation: The Task Group on Helmets is recommending that each structural fire helmet should have goggles as primary eye protection and that the goggles should be attached to the helmet.