

- Know your legal responsibilities
- Don't let them wash their safety away
- Full service means full protection

• THE BENEFITS OF FULL SERVICE OVER HOME LAUNDERING PROTECTIVE GARMENTS

- Some European standards relevant to protective clothing
- Full service has other benefits as well as safety

• Contact us

• Download pdf version



• Know your legal responsibilities

Simply supplying your employees with protective clothing which meets European standards in that it 'preserves the health and safety of users' and 'provides adequate protection against all risks encountered' only fulfils one part of your legal responsibility. Did you know that, as an employer, you are not only responsible for selecting and supplying suitable protective clothing for the specific hazards of the job, but also for its correct care and maintenance?

• Don't let them wash their safety away

Correct care and maintenance involves far more than simply keeping a protective garment looking clean and fresh. And due to the technical requirements of some garments, this means that in many cases washing them at home can do more harm than good. Some garments have protective coatings which require special cleaning, others have to be checked for holes or dangerous residues which can compromise your employees' safety. Every garment also has a limited number of times it can be cleaned while retaining its protective qualities, so this also needs to be monitored to ensure that the garment can be replaced at the appropriate time.

• Full service means full protection

As you will see from the table below, a full service solution provides your employees with physical protection and your company with legal protection over the full lifetime of a protective garment. A full service company will check each garment every time it is laundered and has staff with the skills, facilities and equipment to ensure that every garment it sends you meets the requirements of the many European standards that apply.

› top of page

THE BENEFITS OF FULL SERVICE OVER HOME LAUNDERING PROTECTIVE GARMENTS

Stains and soiling	Quality and consistency	Protective properties	Colour cross-contamination/deterioration	Lifetime
Are stains and soiling adequately removed (without affecting the protective properties)?	Is care and maintenance carried out in a way that assures quality and consistency ?	Are you sure that the protective properties of the reprocessed garment are still adequate ?	Can you avoid colour cross-contamination and colour deterioration ?	Do you know when a garment has reached the end of its lifetime and should be replaced?

DOMESTIC WASHING RISKS LOSING PROTECTION OVER THE LIFETIME OF THE GARMENT

Washing powders and softeners focus more on appearance (stains can be superficially removed) BUT the protective properties may not be maintained May damage the electrostatic properties of the garment's fibres in breach of EN 1149 - electrostatic	Domestic washing recommendations are often misleading and can cause irreparable damage to the garment (e.g. blends with viscose or wool, improper labels for drying) • Some detergents which generally maintain these properties are not available to consumers, i.e. Fluocarbon • No access to the appropriate accessories for repairing the garments • Minor modifications are allowed, however, employers must be aware that only the correct sleeve length will give proper protection. Neglecting this is a violation of law and impacts employer responsibility.	May leave potentially dangerous contaminants behind breaching EN 531 - heat and flame	No means of objective assessment (based only on feeling)	Re-impregnation impossible, can lead to loss of chemical protective coatings in breach of EN 13034 type 6 - liquid chemical	Not possible, e.g. one sock can contaminate a whole load of high-visibility garments Can destroy a garment's reflective properties in breach of EN 471 - high visibility
---	---	---	--	---	---



FULL SERVICE PROVIDES PROTECTION OVER THE LIFETIME OF THE GARMENT

Yes , due to validated processes for care and maintenance	Yes , due to inspection procedures (e.g. visual inspection for holes) and appropriate testing , when needed	Contaminants are removed adequately , no use of softeners, neutral ph after laundering	The design requirements in the European standards are taken into account when changes or repairs are made (such as when logos or badges are attached to the garment) AND the use of an appropriate material	Re-treatment (if necessary) with appropriate products	By using suitable high-quality fabrics and accessories, combined properly , as well as segregated washing	Detailed record-keeping in combination with inspection and testing ensures that garments which no longer meet minimum performance requirements are replaced
---	--	--	--	--	---	--

› top of page

• Some European standards relevant to protective clothing

EN 471-ISO 20471	High visibility
EN 343	Protection against rain and foul weather
EN 14058	Garments for protection against cool environments
EN 342	Ensembles and garments for protection against cold
EN 13034	Performance requirements for chemical protective clothing offering limited protective performance against liquid chemicals
EN 1149 1-5	Protection against electrostatic properties
EN 470-ISO 11611	Protective Clothing for use in welding
EN 531-ISO 11612	Clothing to protect against heat and flame

• Full service has other benefits as well as safety

Economic

Full service extends the lifetime of a garment as it is given the optimum care at each laundering. The service provider manages your protective clothing inventory and carries out regular reviews to ensure the correct levels. You also save on staffing costs for managing your protective clothing, as well as freeing up the space that it would otherwise have required. Finally, you don't need to hold stock for emergencies or seasonal peaks as your supplier takes care of this.

Environmental

Professional textile services companies have the latest and most efficient equipment for carrying out their operations. This equipment is designed to make the most effective possible use of water, energy and chemicals. In addition, waste treatment is closely monitored and meets the most stringent environmental standards.

Social

Your employees have the convenience of knowing that they will always have clean and effective workwear without having to look after its laundering themselves. You have peace of mind in knowing that your employees are wearing protective clothing which meets the highest standards at all times. By providing them with this protection, you also protect your company by meeting your legal and regulatory obligations.

CONTACT US

If you would like further information about the advantages of outsourcing your textile services, please e-mail Robert Long at the address below.

Robert Long r.long@etsa-europe.org

› top of page