

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is ASTM F2178-02?

ASTM (American Society of Testing and Materials) developed this F2178-02 standard in order to evaluate the arc protective value of face and head protective devices. Prior to the issue of this standard in August 2002, there was no standard that addressed the evaluation of a finished product, just the component fabric of a garment (ASTM F1506). Every manufacturer of hoods and faceshields should now conduct testing on the hoods and faceshields they sell. Although few manufacturers choose to do this testing, Oberon has conducted complete F2178, testing on its ARC15, ARC40, ARC65 and ARC100 hoods, as well as its ArcShield.

The importance of this standard is neither the product manufacturer nor the enduser know how the product will perform unless it is actually tested under arc conditions. While the fabric used to construct the hood may be fire retardant, other components may not be. We have seen competitors' arc flash hoods burst into flames when tested and require a fire extinguisher to put out the flames even though it was labeled "Meets ASTM F1506." Furthermore, this testing evaluates the design of the product to ensure it works as well in the real world as it seems to in the theoretical world.

An arc flash personal protective equipment manufacturer should now be able to provide a report on the F2178 evaluation of its product, if asked by a consumer.



For over 20 year, since Oberon created the first Arc Flash faceshields and clothing, the industry has looked to Oberon as the leader.


Pioneer and Leader in Arc Flash PPE

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