

FRT Cotton or Inherently FR Garments, Which one is the right one for you?

FABRIC COMPARISON TABLE			
★★★ = Best	ARC [®] Series	LCI Series	CAT [®] Series
	Aramid & Melamine Fabric	Dupont [®] Protera [®] Fabric	FRT Cotton Fabric
System Weight	***	**	*
Arc Rating per Weight	***	**	*
Layering Options	***	**	*
Comfort	***	**	*
Laundering	***	***	*
Durability	***	**	*
Initial Cost	*	**	***
Value in Use	***	***	**

There are two types of fabrics available in the marketplace for Arc Flash protection: Inherently Flame Resistant (IFR) and Flame Retardant Treated (FRT) Cotton or Cotton/Nylon blends. FRT clothing is cotton or a cotton/nylon blend made flame resistant through a flame retardant chemical treatment applied to the fabric. IFR clothing is made from fabrics with fibers with a chemical structure that will not burn in air. Both types of garments perform well and the end-user can expect the arc rated protection level from either one. Oberon has both FRT cotton and Inherently FR Garments available in its product line for all hazard risk categories. There are benefits and disadvantages from both types of Personal Protective garments. Therefore, the end user should consider the conditions under which the garments will be used to determine which of the two types is more appropriate.

For the Infrequent User

FRT Cotton garments are ideal "limited wear" solutions for a company that does not anticipate using the garments frequently - like an electrical contractor. FRT cotton garments have limited durability. It has been shown that they can lose their flame resistance if laundered incorrectly, e.g. with bleach. Furthermore, after repeated washing, the FRT cotton/nylon shrinks significantly and its color fades. Therefore, if you will only be using the garments occasionally, FRT cotton/nylon is a good investment for you; especially when you consider that the initial purchase price of FRT cotton/nylon garments is less than for Inherently FR garments.



FR Treated
Cotton
Coverall

For the Daily User

In an industrial or utility operation, where the garments are going to be used frequently or daily, the Inherently FR garments are often a superior solution. Inherently FR garments are permanently Flame Resistant. They are typically more durable, substantially lighter weight and, although they cost a little bit more upfront, because they last longer they can be a cheaper solution in the long run. Also, there is no concern of laundering the FR property out of the garments because it is a permanent feature of the material.

Oberon manufactures both FRT and Inherently FR garments with the same focus on quality, durability and effective protection. The ARC Series of arc flash garments are manufactured using a set of unique proprietary fabrics not available anywhere else in the market. They are woven for Oberon and used to create lightweight and comfortable arc flash garments with the highest Arc Rating to fabric weight ratio available in the industry. These fabrics are designed to be lightweight, durable and highly insulating against the radiant and convective heat generated by an arc flash explosion. Oberon's fabrics and window technology set the company apart from the others in the industry as the PPE market and technology leader in the industry. For over 20 year, since Oberon created the first Arc Flash faceshield and clothing, the industry has looked to Oberon for PPE innovation and leadership!!



Inherently FR ARC65 Suit