

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are All Flame Resistant Fabrics the Same?

The simple answer? No!

Flame Resistant (FR) fabric is a fabric that will self extinguish when the source of the ignition is removed. It does not mean that the fabric is not flammable. When the flame or heat is in contact with the fabric, it will usually burn. However, it should not continue to burn when the heat or flame has been removed. There are basically two categories of flame resistant fabrics: treated and inherent.

Treated: Flame Retardant Treated (FRT) fabric, such as cotton, has been treated with a fire retardant – that is, a chemical has been applied to the surface of the fabric so that it becomes resistant to flame. The flame retardant chemical can be washed out if improperly laundered.

Inherent: Inherently Flame Resistant (FR) fabric has a flame resistant quality built right in. The resistance to flame is a fundamental characteristic or quality of the fabric. It cannot be removed or washed out without substantially altering or damaging the fabric.

Oberon became concerned about flame retardant treated (FRT) fabrics when an advisory was issued by Westex, the manufacturer of FRT cotton fabrics, such as Indura® and Indura Ultra Soft®, regarding the concerns that the flame retardant used to treat its FRT cotton products could be washed or laundered out of the fabrics.

Oberon expended a great deal of time and effort in the development of a set of proprietary fabrics designed to provide the lightest weight and the highest protection and be inherently flame resistant – in short, the ideal Arc Flash garment fabric!



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



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