



## **The Flash, Volume 3**

Welcome to our newsletter !! it has been awhile since we have passed on some information that you will find helpful in selling one of the hottest products in the market today—FR clothing.

### **CSAZ462 update**

The standard is in place, some authorities are starting to enforce some of the provisions of the document. What does it really mean, and how will it affect your sales ?

#### **WHY THE CSA STANDARD NOW ?**

The CSA standard is intended to change the culture in Canada that says that it's OK and perfectly safe to work in an energized state. It is not, and never will be safe to work live at any voltage or any amperage.

#### **IS CSA Z 462 THE LAW IN CANADA ?**

The CSA standard is not the law—it is a consensus standard, written by numerous experts in the field of electrical safety. It is not part of the “code” either federally or provincially, although we suspect that all codes will either adopt several of the provisions of the standard or at least refer to it in their next updated versions. Make no mistake about it however—authorities will use the CSA Z 462 as a document to prosecute employers who are negligent in protecting their workers. They will use the age old phrase “You knew or should have known.”

Recently, a worker was fined along with his employer for not using proper PPE in Ontario. The judge ruled that the worker was partially responsible for his own injuries as a result of his not wearing his gloves. The worker had received serious burns and related injuries, and although his employer was deemed responsible, the worker had been told to wear his gloves and didn't.

## **HOW WILL IT AFFECT MY CUSTOMERS ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS ?**

Many provinces already have strict laws about electrical safety and working live. For instance, did you know that in Ontario, it is against the law to work on a live circuit unless by de-energizing the circuit you would cause greater risk of harm to someone else ? ESA inspectors and Occupational Health and safety people are strictly enforcing the requirements to use FR clothing. You should ask your local electrical inspectors what they are doing to enforce the provisions of the CSA Z 462 standard. You can expect that with the added ammunition of CSA Z 462, electrical inspectors and occupational health and safety inspectors will be enforcing this standard more stringently in the near future.

Responsible companies are now requiring the use of proper PPE by all contractors working on their sites. We regularly get panic calls from local contractors in Toronto, looking to get a pair of coveralls and a face shield so that they can go back to work !

## **WHAT ABOUT NFPA 70E ?**

At the same time as the CSA standard was being written, NFPA was updating its standard as well. The two standards are mirrors of each other, meaning that the standard for safe electrical work is harmonized in Canada and the US. This means that clothing standards are the same in both countries, and clothing meeting NFPA standards also meet CSA standards. The CSA standard replaces the NFPA standard in Canada.

## **ENERGIZED WORK PERMITS**

FR clothing is the last line of defense against arc flashes. The first line of defense is “de-energizing the circuit, locking out and tagging out, and checking for residual energy”

Contractors sometimes tell me that their employers/ customers will not allow them to de-energize equipment and tell them to work live to save downtime. The CSA standard now calls for the use of “energized work permits” These are written forms that encourage the discussion of all the issues involved in working live, including

- Justification for working live
- Alternatives to working live, such as rescheduling the work to more convenient times
- Responsibility for the decision to work live, which often causes managers to take a second look at the decision when they are forced to take responsibility for the unsafe work practice

## COPIES OF THE STANDARD

You can get an electronic copy or order printed copies of the standard at <http://www.shopcsa.ca/onlinestore/welcome.asp?Language=EN>

## INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

Contractors across the country are confused with what they need to do to be compliant with the standard. PMMI International is now offering a follow up to their very successful arc flash presentations called “What’s new in 462”. This is NOT an arc flash presentation, since the CSA standard covers so much more than arc flash. It is intended to bring your customers up to date on the standard, and to show customers how they can comply. Call your local rep for information.

## PRODUCT NEWS

### Gloves

PMMI is pleased to advise that we are carrying Class 3 and will soon have Class 4 gloves in stock in Toronto. It is well known that these gloves have become increasingly difficult to get in North America, and back orders from our competitor are quite lengthy. Please call for information.

### New items



**Hoodies**, or as they are called in Saskatchewan, “bunny hugs”, are now available in several different materials and calorie ratings.

[http://www.pmmiintl.com/index.php/product/arcgear/fr\\_fleeces\\_and\\_knit\\_wear/](http://www.pmmiintl.com/index.php/product/arcgear/fr_fleeces_and_knit_wear/)

**Nomex vests and hoodies** are available in the Polar Fleece line of product. These are especially attractive to those working in petro-chemical environments that require the use of Nomex.



[http://www.pmmiintl.com/index.php/product/arcgear/polar\\_nomex\\_fleeces/](http://www.pmmiintl.com/index.php/product/arcgear/polar_nomex_fleeces/)

**High Energy Balaclava/ Goggle** combination, giving you an alternative to the 40 cal hood. The combination is rated at 47 cal/cm<sup>2</sup>

[http://www.pmmiintl.com/index.php/product/arcgear/high\\_energy\\_face\\_protection\\_combo/](http://www.pmmiintl.com/index.php/product/arcgear/high_energy_face_protection_combo/)



**Need something special ?** Many items that we have available are not on the website. Kevlar gloves, aluminized clothing, Vinex clothing for aluminum workers, the list is endless—**if you don't see it, ask !!**

**Voltage rated blankets and arc suppression blankets** now available

**Hot sticks** PMMI has taken on the Ritz line of hot sticks and grounding equipment. This will be of interest to your high voltage contractors who work for utilities.

[http://www.pmmiintl.com/images/uploads/Hot\\_sticks\\_section\\_B.pdf](http://www.pmmiintl.com/images/uploads/Hot_sticks_section_B.pdf)

**Cross reference to Salisbury hot stick part numbers:**

[http://www.pmmiintl.com/images/uploads/Salisbury-Ritz\\_Part\\_Nos\\_7-16-09.pdf](http://www.pmmiintl.com/images/uploads/Salisbury-Ritz_Part_Nos_7-16-09.pdf)

## On the Website

Need a catalog or some technical sheets ? You can get most information on our website on the download page

<http://www.pmmiintl.com/index.php/downloads/>