Clothing For Protection against Hazardous Chemicals

Selecting the right chemical suit for the job is vital to ensure not only are workers properly protected but that they are not over-protected – which could mean paying more than you need for PPE and that workers suffer more discomfort than necessary.

Chemical protection is defined by three key standards:

Type 4 EN 14605	Type 3 EN 14605	Type 1 EN 943-1&2
protection against sprays of hazardous liquids	protection against jet sprays of hazardous liquids	protection against hazardous vapours and gases
Type 4 Garments: ChemMax® 1 EB MicroMax® TS Cool Suit ChemMax® Cool Suits Pyrolon™ CRFR Cool Suit	**Type 3 & 4 Garments:** TomTex® ChemMax® 1 and 2 ChemMax® 3 and 4 Pyrolon™ CRFR, CBFR, TPCR	**Type 1 Garments:** Interceptor® Plus *Note: Type 2 has been removed in the 2015 version of EN 943 so no longer exists.*

Consider three key factors when selecting the most appropriate clothing for an application

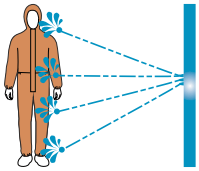
1. The chemical

- 'Breakthrough time' provided by (EN 6529 or ASTM F739) permeation tests can be used for comparison of fabrics but provides no information about how long you are safe.
- Consider the hazard presented by the chemical:
  How toxic is it?
  Is it harmful in very small quantities?
  Is it carcinogenic or causes long term harm in other ways?
- Is the application performed in a warm temperature? (permeation rates increase at higher temperatures). What effect does temperature have on the safe use time?
- Calculate a maximum safe use time using permeation rates, temperature & chemical toxicity.

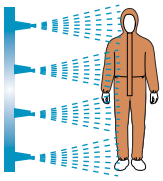
Use **PermaSURE®** to calculate safe-use times for Lakeland chemical suits **ChemMax® 3**, **ChemMax® 4 Plus** and **Interceptor® Plus**

2. Which hazard / spray type?

- Protection against gases and vapours may require a Type 1 gas-tight suit such as Interceptor® Plus
- The type of spray in the application indicates whether a Type 3, 4 or 6 garment is required.
- However, with a highly toxic chemical even if the spray type indicates a Type 6 garment, a higher level of protection might be appropriate.



Type 3 Strong jet sprays



Type 4 Shower sprays

Approximately 80% or more applications in the market are Type 4 and not Type 3.

Type 3 or Type 4?

Determining that the application is Type 4 rather than Type 3 means selecting more comfortable options such as a **ChemMax® Cool Suit.**

3. Physical / environment factors

- A variety of factors relating to the task and where it is performed can influence the choice of garment.
- Three groups of factors can be considered.

Factors relating to :		
The Task	**The Environment**	**Others**
For example: Kneeling / crawling? Climbing? Confined space? Mobility?	For example: Visibility?, Moving vehicles? Sharp edges?, Heat or flames? Warm conditions? Explosive atmosphere?	For example: Co-ordination with other PPE? Training required? Donning and doffing? Regulatory issues?
		

All such factors may influence the choice of fabric and garment design: (physical properties, colour, noise level and additional properties such as flammability).

CE Standard physical tests can be used to assess comparative performance in terms of durability using abrasion resistance, tear strength etc.

** Competitor brand results are from competitors' own websites and were correct at the time of publication. Users are recommended to check up to date information with competitors before making any assessment based on specific chemicals. Other chemical test results may be available from competitors.*