

INSPECTION

This guide is a summary of the primary requirements in NFPA 1851.

ROUTINE INSPECTION

Each individual member must conduct a routine inspection of their PPE when received and after each use. Routine inspection procedures include examination of PPE elements for:

All elements

- Soiling
- Contamination
- Physical damage
- Loss of seam integrity; broken/missing stitches

Garments

- Damaged or missing trim
- Damaged closures and hardware
- Correct assembly of shell, liner, and drag rescue device (DRD)

Hoods

- Loss of elasticity in face opening

Helmets

- Shell damage
- Damaged or missing components including trim

Gloves

- Shrinkage
- Liner inversion
- Loss of flexibility

Footwear

- Loss of water resistance
- Exposed/damaged parts; nonfunctional closures
- DRD
- Proper installation

COMPLETE LINER INSPECTION

Garments that are 3 years or older must be subjected to a complete liner inspection by the same types of organizations qualified for advanced inspection. Complete liner inspection applies a full examination of the liner interior and hydrostatic testing of the moisture barrier.

ADVANCED INSPECTION

Advanced inspections of PPE and ensemble elements are to be conducted by the manufacturer, an organization trained by the manufacturer, a verified organization, or a verified ISP (independent service provider). Advanced inspections are conducted at least at issue and every 12 months or whenever routine inspections indicate that a problem may exist.

All elements

- Soiling
- Contamination
- Physical or thermal damage
- Loss of seam integrity; broken/missing stitches
- Label integrity and legibility

Garments

- Moisture barrier and seam sealing integrity
- Fit and coat/pant overlap
- Loss of strength due to UV or chemical exposure
- Loss or shifting of thermal liner material
- Wristlet elasticity and functionality
- Reflective trim and Velcro integrity, attachment, and function
- Liner attachment systems
- Closure system, including hook and loop closure tape
- Correct installation of DRD

Hoods

- Loss of material elasticity and stretching out of shape
- Loss of face-opening adjustment

Helmets

- Suspension and retention systems functionality
- Damage to impact-dissipating components
- Damaged or missing components, including trim
- Loss of faceshield/goggle system functionality

Gloves

- Shrinkage
- Liner inversion
- Loss of flexibility
- Loss of shape and elasticity in wristlets
- Loss of water resistance

Footwear

- Loss of water resistance
- Closure system component damage and function
- Excessive tread wear
- Condition of linings for tears, excessive wear, and separation from outer layer