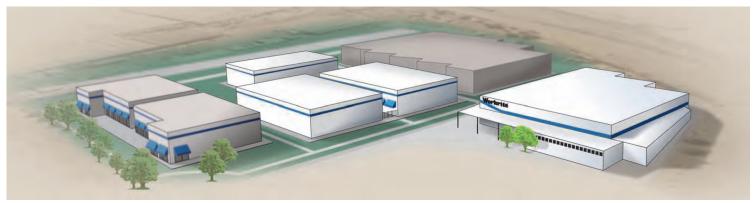
### FROM FABRIC TO FR









From the day Workrite opened in 1973, we have focused solely on creating quality flame-resistant products for our customers.

## THE WORKRITE APPROACH TO FR GARMENTS

#### **Beginning with the Business Model**

Workrite's value proposition begins with our business model. We are exclusively a flame resistant (FR) clothing manufacturer, which means all efforts and expertise are dedicated to manufacturing this type of garment.

#### A Technical Product

FR is a technical product, a safety product, with demands beyond conventional work wear, and we understand this distinction. Our staff deals exclusively in FR and is trained in its properties and the requirements of the industries that Workrite serves. We maintain a high standard of excellence and investment in fabric research, product development, manufacturing, quality assurance and knowledgeable sales representation. We have created processes and infrastructure specific to FR garments, encompassing important concepts such as traceability to confirm sources of materials and components, a sales team specially trained in FR and comprehensive garment testing to confirm FR integrity, wearability and durability.

#### Beyond "Cut and Sew"

In order to create long-lasting protective apparel, many crucial steps must be executed between the point when fabric ships from the mill and when garments are delivered to the jobsite. Workrite works closely with top fabric suppliers, upholding some of the most stringent fabric specifications in the industry. Through these same relationships with

suppliers, we participate in the development and testing of new FR fabrics, keeping Workrite—and our customers—on the forefront of changing FR technology.

Beyond "Cut and Sew" means more than exceeding basic manufacturing requirements; it means being able to respond effectively to customer needs in supporting an ongoing FR uniform program. The ability to customize garments, provide fast turnaround times on non-stock sizes and manage company logo programs are some examples of how Workrite can serve a wide variety of customer needs. Our model has been developed to provide these capabilities for customers who require them. Workrite continues to adapt to shifting customer requirements and market conditions as well, with examples including e-commerce programs and introduction of new FR fabrics to accommodate a complete spectrum of price points, budgets and hazards.

Simply put, building high-quality flame-resistant garments is a complex process. Workrite has developed a comprehensive series of techniques and background processes, which are not necessarily readily apparent when simply looking at the garment, but are responsible for the garment's quality, integrity and durability.

At Workrite, much more goes into creating a quality safety product than simply "cutting and sewing" a piece of fabric into a coverall. The purpose of this document is to provide more in-depth information, so those who are in the evaluation stages of purchasing flame-resistant garments can better understand how manufacturers are differentiated from one another.

#### **Test Methods for FR Fabrics**

- Elmendorf Tear Strength (WxF)
- Tensile Strength (Woven) (WxF)
- Burst Strength (Knit)
- Seam Strength
- Dry Crock Fastness
- Wet Crock Fastness
- Air Permeability
- Wash Colorfastness
- Colorfastness to Light (Xenon light 20 hrs.)
- Thermal Protective Performance (spaced x contact)
- Appearance Retention
- Thermal Shrinkage
- Vertical Flammability (5, 25 & 100 washings)
- Laundry Shrinkage / Dimensional Stability (Cotton sturdy cycle, 50 washings home laundering)
- IL Shrinkage (10 washings @ 165° F)
- IL Shrinkage (50 washings @ 140° F)
- Heat Resistance
- Arc Thermal Performance Value ATPV
- HAF (Heat attenuation factor, the higher the HAF %, the more heat is blocked)
- Thermal Manikin (Record numbers at 3 & 4 sec.)



At Workrite, every garment and every style is 100% flame-resistant, every time.



#### THE WORKRITE PROCESS: How we build a better FR garment



Pre-sale technical and

consultative support

#### Strategic relationships with proven

We will work with you to understand your requirements and provide options to suit your needs. This includes the initial consultation through to the evaluation process.



## fabric suppliers

We work with proven FR fabric suppliers on a long-term strategic basis, so you can be confident that your Workrite garments will perform in the field.



#### **Achieving fabric** standards, including proprietary **Quality Alliance Team** (QAT) process

Workrite quality starts with our collaborative process to garner the highest caliber raw materials.

#### Stringent internal processes: ISO 9001:2000 certification

Workrite's certified quality control systems and processes assure our customers that the products we provide meet the highest standards of quality and consistency. We have a systematic approach to continually improving our products based on customer and internal feedback.



#### Certification at the garment level and garment labeling

Certification at the garment level, in addition to the fabric level, ensures your garment as a whole has been audited and meets the specific requirements of a given standard. Through a combination of disclosure and labeling, Workrite puts a priority on providing you with the information you need to make an informed decision when purchasing FR products.



#### **Garment design** and styling

At over 300 styles, Workrite has one of the largest assortments in the industry. Our garments have been developed specifically for FR use and possess features developed over decades to provide increased functionality, wearer comfort and—most importantly—safety.



#### **Durability through special** construction techniques

Workrite "over constructs" garments for long-lasting durability, which translates into a longer wear life. While we do not make the least expensive garment in the industry, we can provide the best overall value because our garments can hold up to wear and tear and need to be replaced less often.



#### **Flexibility** and scalable manufacturing

Because of our hybrid manufacturing capabilities. Workrite is able to be responsive to changing volume or customer requirement demands.



#### Customization processes: value added services, customs, specials, logo management

Our 30-year, madeto-order heritage has allowed us to develop systems for meeting your special requirements.



#### **Quality Control System:** 100% inspection throughout manufacturing

Our end-to-end inspection process results in high-quality garments with a low defect rate (.033%). Get a consistent garment every time without having to hassle with returns and credits due to quality issues. High quality = longer wear life and lower total cost over the life of the garment.



#### **Quality assurance**

Workrite creates high-quality, high-FRintegrity products by tactical design. Workrite listens to and learns from customer input, resulting in continuous improvement in our products and processes.



#### **Product** development and innovation

Workrite will keep you abreast of key FR technology innovations that you may want to integrate into your FR program.



#### Program installation. maintenance and support

Workrite provides a full range of options to support your ongoing flame-resistant program needs.



## 1 PRE-SALE TECHNICAL AND CONSULTATIVE SUPPORT

An FR garment program is typically not an "off the shelf" purchase. Pre-sale support can be essential as customers determine the scope of their programs, the levels of protection required to meet workplace hazards and the garment choices that will best satisfy all requirements for protection, longevity and comfort.

Workrite Regional Account Executives collaborate with customers who are establishing FR garment programs to help them explore available clothing and fabric options, including comparing fabric

properties and providing performance and testing data. Concurrently, Workrite provides customers with background information on garments and their foundational fabrics, including fabric mill and brand name, which permits customers to conduct their own research if desired. All Workrite garments are also labeled with the fabric brand name and place of manufacture.

On larger program installations, Workrite works with the customer or channel partner on the tactical implementation of sizing sessions.



Workrite encourages wear trials, allowing garment users to inspect, try on and try out products in the field. Close collaboration with the customer, disclosure of the fabric source and wear trial periods in the field reassure individual wearers and their employers that they will make the right long-term selections in FR garments.

Our technical manager directly interacts with customers and is available to answer questions on product applicability to various hazards, testing and FR standards. Workrite also continually monitors and researches updates to key safety standards and test methods, certifications and industry regulations. Our technical manager participates in key FR standards meetings, such as ASTM F23, ASTM F18, NFPA 2112 and NFPA 70E. With these resources, Workrite can help advise and train customers in FR garment applications as well as best practices.



Workrite includes the garment cut-number for traceability, allowing us to go back to the source of the garment if necessary.

## **2** STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH FABRIC SUPPLIERS

The most important criterion an FR garment manufacturer should use in selecting the fabrics for its products is its ability to provide dependable flame-resistant protection. Workrite conducts significant due diligence on the suppliers we work with and each fabric we use. As part of our overall quality process, we only work with suppliers who have a solid track record for producing flame-resistant fabrics, maintaining stringent testing and documentation protocols, and are well capitalized, long-term players who can stand behind their products. Additionally, Workrite focuses on supporting suppliers who are investing in R&D to create new FR technologies that better meet the varying needs of their customers.

Workrite has worked with many key suppliers for decades. We value establishing strategic relationships with fabric mills, enabling us to participate in product trials, provide key customer feedback into new product development processes and work hand-in-hand to proactively affect mill output with programs like the Quality Alliance Team process (QAT).

## Workrite: A DuPont Nome Preferred Supplier

Garments of DuPont<sup>™</sup> Nomex® IIIA brand fiber offer superior durability and thermal protection. Nomex provides proven inherent flame resistance that won't wash or wear away. Workrite is proud to be a Nomex preferred provider since the inception of DuPont's program.

## To be a DuPont Preferred Provider, a garment manufacturer must:

- Provide a portfolio of products
- Maintain financial stability
- Meet outlined training criteria
- Purchase fabric from preferred mills that meet specific requirements outlined by DuPont.
- Meet labeling and warranty specifications
- Participate in standards organizations
- Have quick-response problem-resolution processes in place
- Have the ability to trace fabric back to its source
- Allow DuPont to inspect facilities and finished product, as well as provide samples for ongoing testing and evaluation





#### Flame-Resistant Fabrics for Flash-Fire and Electric-Arc Protection

Fabric	Description & Content	Typical Applications	Typical Weights <sup>1</sup> (oz/yd²)	Common Colors <sup>1</sup>	Initial Price <sup>2</sup>	Life Cost <sup>3</sup>	Estimated Wear Life <sup>4</sup>	Comments
Nomex® IIIA	Inherently flame-resistant fiber blend of 93% Nomex, 5% Kevlar and 2% antistatic fiber. Nomex IIIA fiber is made by DuPont.	Flash fire and electric arc     Fire service station wear     Auto racing, military	Shirts: 4.5 & 6 Pants: 6 & 7.5 Coveralls: 4.5 & 6 Jackets: 6 oz. Outershell 9 oz. Insulation	Khaki, Light Blue, Navy, Orange, Red, Royal, Spruce, Yellow	High	Low	3–5 years	Not suitable for molten metal, dedicated welding or chemical barrier protection applications.
Comfort Blend™	Inherently flame-resistant fiber blend of 65% Nomex IIIA and 35% Lenzing FR. Comfort Blend is made by TenCate <sup>TM</sup> , Inc. Part of the Nomex Comfortwear collection.	Flash fire and electric arc	Shirts: 4.5	Denim, Gray, Khaki, Light Blue	High	Moderately Low	2 –4 years	Improved comfort performance compared to Nomex. Very good protection. Not suitable for molten metal, dedicated welding or chemical barrier protection applications.
CXP® of Nomex®	Inherently flame-resistant fiber blend of 93% Nomex, 5% Kevlar and 2% antistatic fiber. CXP is made by Milliken & Company.	Flash fire and electric arc	Shirts: 4.5	Khaki, Midnight Navy	High	Low	3–5 years	Improved comfort and durability over other FR products. Not suitable for molten metal, dedicated welding or chemical barrier protection applications.
Advance <sup>™</sup>	Inherently flame-resistant blend of 40% Nomex and 60% Kevlar. Advance is made by TenCate™ Protection Fabrics.	• Welding	Coveralls: 7	Navy	Very High	Low	3–5 years	For welding applications.
Indura®	Flame-retardant treated 100% cotton. The FR performance is guaranteed for the life of the garment.* Indura fabric is made by Westex, Inc.	Electric arc     Welding, steel and ferrous metals	Shirts: 7 Pants: 9.5, 12 & 14 Coveralls: 9.5	Denim, Khaki, Medium Blue, Medium Gray, Navy, Orange, Royal	Low	Moderately High	1–1.5 years	Fabrics feel very similar to 100% cotton, and are heavier than inherently FR fabrics.
Indura Ultra Soft®	Flame-retardant treated 88% cotton and 12% nylon blend. The FR performance is guaranteed for the life of the garment.* Indura Ultra Soft fabric is made by Westex, Inc.	Electric arc     Welding, steel and ferrous metals     Military	Woven Shirts: 5.5 & 7 Knits: 6 Pants: 9.5 & 12 Coveralls: 7 & 9.5 Duck Cloth: 11	Brown Duck, Chambray, Charcoal Gray, Denim, Khaki, Medium Blue, Navy, Red, Royal, Silver Gray	Moderately Low	Moderately Low	2 years	Soft feel or "hand"; enhanced durability compared to 100% cotton FR-treated products.
PBI Gold®	Inherently flame-resistant fiber blend of 40% polybenzimidizole and 60% Kevlar. PBI fiber is made by PBI Performance Products, Inc.; Kevlar fiber is made by DuPont.	Flash fire and electric arc	Coveralls: 4.5	Natural (brownish-yellow)	Very High	High	2–4 years	Available in its one natural color only; color darkens in UV light.
Firewear™	Blend of 55% fibrous flame-retardant fiber and 45% combed pima cotton fiber. Firewear fabric is made by Springfield LLC.	Electric arc     Fire service station wear	Knits: 5.5	Gray, Navy	Moderately Low	Moderately High	1–2 years	Not suitable for flash fire hazards.
Protera®	Inherently flame-resistant fiber blend of 65% modacrylic, 23% Nomex, 10% Kevlar and 2% antistatic fiber. Protera is made by DuPont.	• Electric arc	Shirts: 6.5 Pants: 8 Coveralls: 6.5	Khaki, Medium Blue, Navy	Moderate	Moderate	Est. 3–4 years	Meets NFPA 70E HRC 2 with comfort and durability.
Tecasafe® Plus	Blend of 48% modacrylic, 37% Lyocell, 15% Para Aramid for the 7 oz. weight. A blend of 45% modacrylic, 35% Lyocell, 15% Meta Aramid and 5% Para Aramid for the 8.5 oz. Tecasafe fabric is made by Tencate <sup>TM</sup> , Inc.	• Flash fire and electric arc	Shirts: 7 Pants: 8.5 Coveralls: 7	Khaki, Navy, Royal	Moderate	Moderate	Est. 3–4 years	Meets NFPA 70E HRC 2 with comfort and durability. Not suitable for molten metal, dedicated welding or chemical barrier protection applications.

<sup>\*</sup> Assuming recommended laundering and use procedures are followed. 1. Typical fabric weights and colors used by Workrite. Others available upon request. 2. Subjective ranking. 3. "Life Cost" refers to the expected expenditures for FR clothing over the life of a program. For example, if a garment has a high up-front cost but a long wear life, the actual program cost is low. 4. Actual garment life varies greatly and depends on conditions of use. Workrite makes no warranty regarding the wear life of flame-resistant fabrics. "Wear Life" estimates are based on following the manufacturer's recommended handling procedures.



#### 3 ACHIEVING HIGH FABRIC STANDARDS WITH QAT PROCESS

Workrite's proprietary Quality Alliance Team (QAT) process helps to achieve high fabric standards through a system of collaboration, inspection, testing and field feedback that improves mill output and strengthens product performance. Adopted from parent, Williamson-Dickie Manufacturing Company, the QAT process unites Workrite with its fabric suppliers to boost the quality of raw materials and reduce lead time and costs. QAT requires cross-divisional groups—process engineers, factory managers, operations staff, quality control and assurance—to contribute insights, foster dialogue and implement findings.

#### **DEFECTS**

The Quality Alliance Team (QAT) helps to ensure only high-quality, low-defect materials are used in Workrite garments. The Quality Control department then

checks for over 45 different defects before the fabric is approved for production. Here is a sampling of the types of defects that can show up on fabric straight from the fabric supplier.





















# **4** STRINGENT INTERNAL PROCESSES: ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFICATION

ISO 9001 is a certification of a company's ability to meet quality standards, and its commitment to continual improvement of their Quality Management System (QMS). Customers have a strong voice in Workrite's ISO process, as a key component includes a customer input form used to track and determine root causes of any issues and foster continuous organization-wide improvement.

ISO 9001:2000 requires third-party auditing and verification that Workrite's quality management processes are strictly adhered to and result in achieving product quality standards. Following an ISO protocol

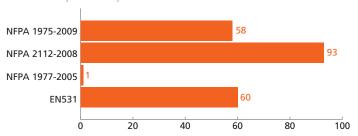
throughout the entire manufacturing process involves every Workrite team member and the dedication of hundreds of hours of specialized effort. This certification helps Workrite achieve an extremely low .033% defect rate. Customers benefit from low product variability, and receive a consistent product each and every time.

## GARMENT LEVEL

Many FR fabrics are certified to meet stated flame-resistance standards. Workrite undertakes an additional certification at the garment level, ensuring that selected garment styles have been audited as a whole and meet specific safety requirements. This "dual certification" reflects Workrite's respect for its products as safety garments and treatment of each as a technical sale.

#### **Workrite's Certified Styles**

All Workrite styles currently certified under the listed standards:



## NFPA 2112 Garment Certification Requirements

For a garment to be truly NFPA 2112 certified—currently Workrite's most common certification—it must meet the following requirements.

The garment must be third-party tested, certified and labeled as being certified.

The garment must be constructed using inherently flame-resistant thread which shall not melt at  $500^{\circ}$  F.

The garment must use heat-resistant hardware (buttons, fasteners, closures, zipper tape, etc.) which shall not melt, drip, separate or ignite in a 500° F oven for 5 min.

The garment labels must remain legible after 100 washings.

The garment manufacturer must submit to an annual facility inspection and a quality assurance program evaluation by UL or other third-party certifying agency.

The garment must use a fabric that has a minimum Thermal Protective Performance (TPP) rating of 6 cal/cm<sup>2</sup> "spaced" and 3 cal/cm<sup>2</sup> "contact."

The garment must use fabric and reflective striping with a Flame Resistance test (vertical flame) result of a max. 2 sec. afterflame, 4" char length and shall not melt or drip.

The garment must use a fabric with a Thermal Shrinkage test result of not more than 10% after exposure in a 500° F oven for 5 minutes.

The garment must use fabric and reflective striping with a Heat Resistance test result of not melting, dripping, separating or igniting in a 500° F oven for 5 min.

A specimen garment using the fabric of choice must pass the Flash Fire Exposure test (manikin) with a max. 50% body burn after 3 sec. exposure.





#### **Garment Labeling**

Comprehensive labeling provides the customer with key information regarding a product's components and care. Workrite takes a "full disclosure" approach to labeling, helping customers make informed decisions. We label our products, indicating fabric brand. Workrite has never sought to be a "low cost leader," but rather has focused on branded fabrics from quality mills.

At Workrite we use multiple labels in our garments to provide a variety of information to the user, including applicable standards, arc thermal performance value (ATPV), care instructions, garment certification, fabric brand, fabric supplier, fabric fiber content and garment place of manufacture. We also pioneered the use of external labels that show the NFPA 70E Hazard Risk Category, either HRC1, HRC2, HRC3 or HRC4, which make it easier to monitor employees' protection levels.

## **6** GARMENT DESIGN AND STYLING

With over 300 styles, Workrite has one of the largest product assortments in the industry.

Beyond the "unseen" construction details that provide durability, key features and design determine the comfort and function of Workrite's FR clothing. "Extras" include longer shirt tails to keep shirts tucked in when reaching overhead and larger hoods on jackets to accommodate hard hats, which improves the wearing experience. Action-style backs increase range of motion, helping reduce muscle fatigue. Designing greater comfort and function into FR garments can lead to greater compliance and increased safety as workers are more likely to accept and properly wear their FR clothing.

## Key Features Designed for Your Needs:

**Shirt and Pants** 



## Extra Long Shirt Tails

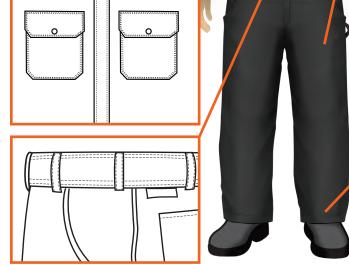
Most Workrite styles feature additional length to the shirt tail, to help keep the shirt tucked in when reaching overhead.

#### Oversized Pockets

Our pockets allow for increased storage to hold necessary tools.

#### Wider Waistband

Wider waistbands help ensure pants will not roll over.



# Curl These a tight the w loose of we



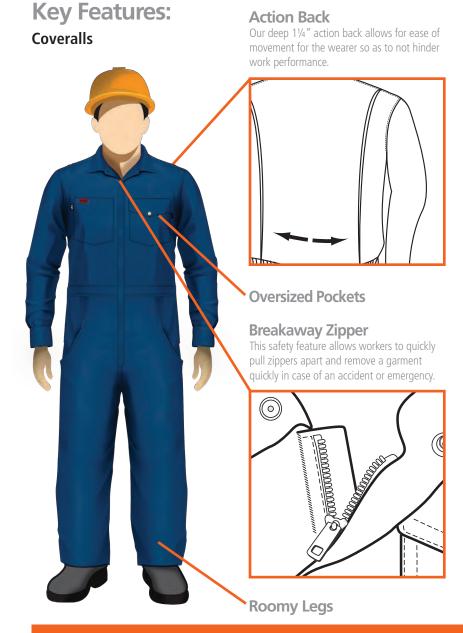
## Adjustable Cuffs

These give sleeves a tighter fit around the wrist, keeping loose clothing out of workers' way.

#### Roomy Legs

The bottom of our pants are designed to fit comfortably over work boots.





#### **Workrite Fit**

For maximum protection, flame-resistant work wear should provide a good functional fit. The fit of the garment can have a direct impact on the protection provided by any FR clothing system. Not only does the flame-resistant garment itself help to reduce burn injury, but air space between the clothing and the body helps insulate the wearer from heat transfer to the skin.

The majority of coverall styles in Nomex and FR Cotton-based fabrics are available in numeric chest sizes, which provide the best possible fit. Our alpha-size garments are cut to the larger size—i.e., size medium 40/42 is cut to a size 42. This applies to coveralls, shirts and outerwear in a variety of fabric types.

#### **Comfort Features**

- Coveralls have deep 1¼" action back which allows ease of movement and does not restrict motion
- Wider waistband on pants prevents rollover
- Extra long shirt tails on most styles prevent the tail from coming out of pants when reaching overhead

#### **Functionality Features**

- Oversized pockets with flaps for storage
- Adjustable cuffs on key styles allow tighter fit around wrist
- Wider belt loops on pants easier to slide belt through
- Roomy legs to fit over work boots

#### **Safety Features**

- No exposed metal on interior of any garments
- All components—thread, zipper tapes, pocketing, hi-temp buttons—are FR
- Breakaway zippers in coveralls and outerwear allow garments to come off quickly in case of an accident

#### **Active Workrite Styles**

**312 Total Styles** 

The following chart displays the various types of garments we create and the diverse number of styles we offer for each fabric type.

#### Coveralls/Bibs

Coveralls/Bibs Total6	2
ULTRA SOFT1	
TECASAFE	
PROTERA	3
PBI	
NOMEX IIIA2	
INDURA1	( Y )
CXP	1
ADVANCE	1

#### Outerwear

EPIC2	
INDURA 1	
NOMEX IIIA 51	
ULTRA SOFT25	
Outerwear Total79	

#### **Pants**

INDURA12
NOMEX IIIA29
PROTERA1
TECASAFE 1
ULTRA SOFT 12
Pants Total55

#### **Shirts**

COMFORT BLEND11
CXP3
FIREWEAR2
INDURA20
NOMEX IIIA35
PROTERA4
TECASAFE 3
ULTRA SOFT35
ULTRA SOFT KNIT 3
Shirts Total116



## **DURABILITY THROUGH SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES**

Workrite utilizes special construction techniques to improve garment durability, which in turn lowers long-term costs since more durable garments require replacement less frequently. Special construction techniques fortify stress points, often in ways that are "unseen" by the customer.

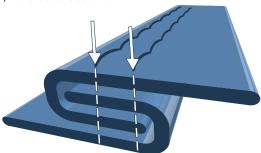
#### **Seam Construction**

Workrite has established the following standards for seam construction:

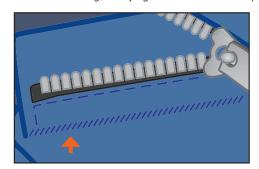
• **Stitch per Inch (SPI) count:** Workrite uses a high count of 8 to 10 SPI versus industry trends of 6 to 8 SPI.



 Double, triple feld: Workrite makes extensive use of double and triple feld seams as well as five-thread overlock, all contributing to stronger, more durable seams.



Double-needle lock stitch: Workrite consistently attaches zippers
with double-needle lock stitching or a combination of double- and
single-needle lock stitching, fortifying this common weak spot.

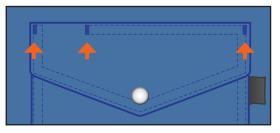


- Seam allowance: Workrite opts for a larger seam allowance of 3/8" versus the standard 1/4". This helps prevent seam slippage, prolonging wear life.
- Finished edges: Workrite does not leave any exposed raw edges, an important technique that helps prevent garments from unraveling over time.

#### **Garment Reinforcement**

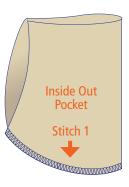
Workrite applies extra materials and time to high-stress areas on every garment, heading off issues that decrease durability and wear life.

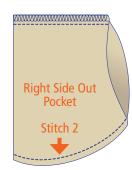
Higher stitch bar tacks: The higher the number, the more durable
the garment. High-stress areas (pockets, zippers, crotch seams, belt
loops, etc.) are strengthened with higher-stitch bar tacks on all
Workrite garments.



 Reinforced pockets: Workrite reinforces many pockets by adding fabric and/or double stitching the inset pockets twice—both inside out and right side out.







- **Cupped buttons:** Workrite buttons are cupped on both sides and use an "H" lock stitch to protect thread from unraveling due to abrasion.
- **Joined coveralls:** Workrite joins the top and bottom of our coveralls in a two-step process for added strength.
- Extra wide crotch gussets: Workrite adds extra wide crotch gussets to many coveralls and pants to relieve stress consistently applied on the garment through standard job movements such as bending and squatting.
- Reinforced snaps: Workrite uses nickel-plated brass snaps to prevent rusting, and places extra fabric on the male and female sides to prevent pull-through.





#### **Autoclave Process**



Each Nomex IIIA garment that goes through Workrite's proprietary PerfectPress™ autoclaving process is 100% inspected twice.



Each garment is pressed before autoclave to lock in a crisp appearance.



Garments are placed on a rack, checked to assure no garments are overlaying one another and that there are no wrinkles.



Garments undergo the autoclave process and then maintain the permanent press quality of appearance over time.

#### **Primary benefits of the PerfectPress™ Autoclave Process:**

- 1. Improves appearance of the overall finished garment after many launderings
- 2. Improves permanent press performance of the fabric over the life of the garment
- 3. Eliminates seam puckering caused by differential shrinkage of thread
- 4. Reduces fabric shrinkage in laundering
- 5. Eliminates differential shrinkage in collars, cuff, plackets and any other garment areas that contain different components
- 6. Permanently heat-sets creases

#### **Appearance Construction Techniques**

Special steps to enhance long-term appearance also prolong the garment's useful life.

- Inner linings: Collars, cuffs and plackets with additional inner linings retain their shape.
- PerfectPress<sup>™</sup> Autoclave for Nomex garments: This timeintensive manufacturing process helps Workrite's Nomex garments maintain a fresh-pressed appearance throughout the life of the garment, extending its wearability period.

#### 8 FLEXIBLE AND SCALABLE MANUFACTURING

Workrite has hybrid manufacturing capabilities encompassing a combination of facilities in Mexico as well as a wholly-owned U.S.-based facility (especially important to customers who need non-stock garments with a quicker turnaround). Workrite's hybrid manufacturing capabilities make the company more flexible than manufacturers whose facilities are either exclusively located overseas or are domestic only. The combination gives Workrite the efficiencies of high volume with the responsiveness of a specialty manufacturer.

#### O CUSTOMIZATION PROCESSES: VALUE ADDED SERVICES, CUSTOMS, SPECIALS, LOGO MANAGEMENT

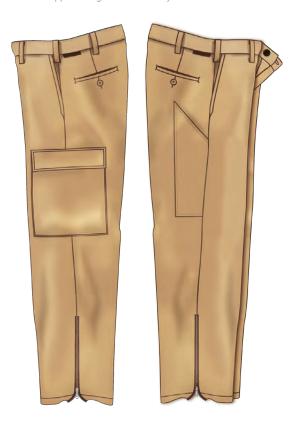
As previously mentioned, flexible and scalable manufacturing sets the stage for Value Added Services (VAS). Workrite excels at meeting special requirements as part of a 35-year, made-to-order heritage. VAS at Workrite encompasses approximately 90 features that can be used to modify garments so they better meet the specific needs of your worksite and environment.

Workrite serves a wide variety of industries and customer types. Over 80% of current Workrite customers require some form of VAS, from the more basic, such as logos and leg zippers, to the relatively complex, such as custom reflective tape schematics or addition of bellowed pockets. Turnaround time on most Workrite valued added modifications is up to 10 days. Some competitors promise similar turnarounds; however, their VAS services are often limited to simple modifications such as hemming and nametags. Moderate to complex VAS can entail multi-week delivery timelines from many other manufacturers. When comparing Workrite's delivery times to others, it is important to take into consideration your company's need for Value Added Services.



#### Value Added Services (VAS)

These pants show an example of Workrite's moderate VAS with the addition of cargo pockets, a tool pocket and leg zippers—additions we can make to applicable garments and styles.



**Non-Stock and Customized Garments** 

Workrite offers one of the fastest turnarounds available on non-stock styles and sizes. We can do this because we have domestic facilities with shorter lead times, optimized to complete small runs. Workrite understands that "non-standard" sized employees must be equipped within a reasonable timeframe, which is why we are committed to fitting everyone at your location. In addition to our capabilities with non-stocks, Workrite carries one of the broadest stock size assortments available.

Workrite understands there are workers who fall outside of the stock size range, and we have committed to fitting each and every worker that requires FR garments.

Workrite can also customize garments, making them unique in order to meet a customer's specific requirements. Depending on volume, we can create a style just for your company, from pattern development through manufacturing. We can collaborate with you and our suppliers to develop a custom color, or make pattern adjustments to create longer shirt tails, longer torsos or additional arm length.

#### **Customer Logo Management**

Over 50% of all Workrite garments require customer logos. In response, Workrite developed its customer logo management program. Customer logo management has three variations:

- Customer-designed & owned logo programs: Workrite works with the customer and our supplier to develop logos based on the customer's designs. We hold the inventory and replenish as needed with customer approval.
- **Customer-supplied logo programs:** The customer supplies logos that Workrite inventories and replenishes with customer approval.
- Workrite-owned logo programs: Workrite communicates directly
  with the logo supplier to purchase and inventory logos, charging the
  customer for logos only as they are used.

# QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM: 100% INSPECTION THROUGHOUT MANUFACTURING

Quality is a deliberate outcome at Workrite, a standard that requires

focused effort of resources, investment and personnel. Our customers demand quality garments that hold up to

tough conditions in the field. Well-constructed,

durable garments made from high-quality raw materials ensure both protection and long-

term value.

Quality control is a series of checks and assurances from pre-production through to customers' final receipt of product. We have full-time personnel "on the ground" at all manufacturing facilities to ensure quality processes and goals are met. The processes help to ensure a low, .033% defect return rate (3.3 garments out of every 10,000).





#### Workrite's quality control process involves:

- Significant quality training protocols for all manufacturing personnel
- Fabric flaw inspections at multiple stages
- Shade-matching process which includes cutting sample yardage from every roll to use in any modification to that production lot (ensures shade match to that specific roll)
- Multiple quality check points within the production line
- 100% inspection of all finished garments, including measurements to ensure proper size control
- An additional AQL audit of all finished garments after final inspection

#### **10** QUALITY ASSURANCE

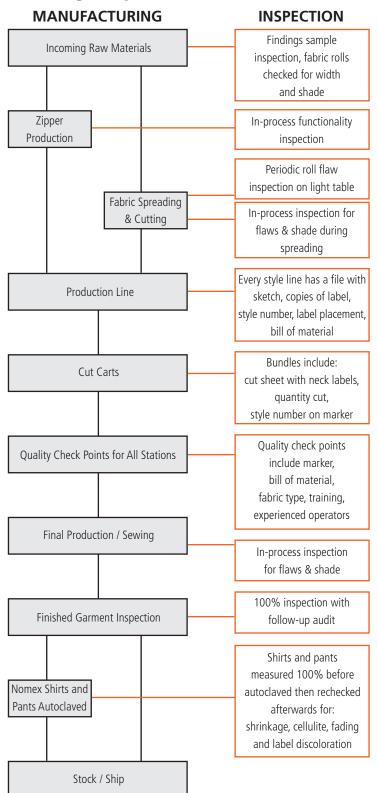
Workrite's ISO certification is the "umbrella" structure for documenting and verifying all quality systems are in place, are accurate and result in meeting our product quality standards. Our Quality Assurance team ensures compliance to these standards throughout the company. The team operates across the entire process, from receipt of raw materials, to manufacturing, to distribution. It also plays a crucial role in converting customer inputs into products and processes that reflect continuous improvement.

## Quality Assurance manages Workrite's ISO Quality Management System, entailing:

- Internal audits for various documented processes in accordance with ISO 9001:2000
- Enforcement of preventative and corrective actions
- Central record keeping and document control
- Fostering continuous improvement in product and processes



## Workrite Manufacturing & Quality Inspection Process





## Quality Assurance manages adherence to all regulatory requirements, with duties that include:

- Initial and ongoing certification of garments
- Coordinating compliance reviews
- Working with third party auditors at all manufacturing facilities
- Interacting with NFPA, ANSI and CEN

## **10** PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

As a leader in FR clothing manufacturing and as a close collaborator with the top suppliers of FR fabrics, Workrite is a source of new FR technologies and information. Workrite helps integrate new FR innovations into its customers' safety programs. We have one of the broadest selections of fabrics and styles in the industry, providing customers the opportunity to be early adopters of new products from proven suppliers that address key needs, from higher protection at lighter weights, to HRC 2 level high-visibility garments. We focus on products that bring new functions or features to the end user at a viable price point.

Workrite devotes considerable resources to new product development. We proactively work with suppliers from across the textile industry, providing requirements and reviewing and testing prototypes of new fabrics. We often involve ourselves with sample evaluation and wear tests early in a supplier's development process. Workrite's cross-divisional teams also meet monthly to develop new styles based on customer feedback. We have even developed relationships with premier fabric suppliers, which allows us to:

- Provide valuable feedback that can improve future products
- Consult on the development of new fabrics and their applications
- Acquire the earliest and most complete knowledge of new fabrics

## **®** PROGRAM INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT

Workrite provides a full range of options to support ongoing flameresistant program needs. The majority of Workrite's revenue comes from long-term customers, a testament to the company's commitment to building enduring relationships.

#### **Ordering the Product**

An FR garment manufacturer typically serves multiple industries, each with different procurement methods and traditions. To accommodate these differences, Workrite has a broad range of methods customers can use to order product. We also have robust online ordering capabilities, including:

- Employee Clothing Allowance Program (ECAP). Employees are
  given a dollar amount as a clothing allowance to order uniforms online.
  Workrite monitors the program and provides management reports,
  relieving the customer of the need to track purchases, and giving
  employees increased flexibility in selecting and receiving their items.
- B2B Direct Connect. Workrite creates a customer-specific Web site that allows employees to log on and place FR clothing orders at pre-established contract pricing. This website is unique from other companies' offerings because it provides up to 40 value added services (VAS) which can be ordered online, and can be set up to address specific logo needs or unique VAS requirements.

Workrite also accepts orders through traditional means such as live customer service representatives, fax and e-mail.

Our customer service department consists of experienced employees, many who have a long tenure with both Workrite and the customers they work with. Customer surveys consistently measure high rates of satisfaction with our customer service representatives.



Workrite can also work with other services like EDI or Trade Ranger. Order confirmations are faxed back to the customer, and staff (customer service or a Workrite regional account executive) is available to address any questions or issues pertaining to orders.



#### **Product Delivery**

Workrite offers competitive delivery with unaltered stock products shipping in as fast as three days. We also excel at meeting customer requirements through value added services, with the majority of our orders requiring some form of add-ons from logos to tool pockets to leg zippers. Non-stock styles and sizes ship in five weeks or less due to our hybrid manufacturing capabilities that result in shorter lead times for small runs. The result for customers is a faster turnaround than many competitors for non-standard product. Workrite ships via UPS or any other carrier per customer request.



#### Samples, Trials, On-Location Services

Workrite gives wearers the opportunity to inspect, try on and try out products with samples, wear trials and on-location sizing. On large program installations, Workrite works with the customer or channel partner (distributor/laundry) on the tactical implementation of sizing sessions. This "hands-on" approach reassures individual wearers as well as employers that they will make the right long-term selections in FR garments.

#### **Ongoing Technical Support and Communication**

Workrite offers multiple points of contact for consultation on products, response to technical questions and resolution of any issues that arise during your ongoing FR program. We use our experience and significant industry leverage to help bring new innovations to market. Our staff is always available to discuss changes to ongoing FR programs or how to integrate new products. The Workrite website is also a good source of information and news. It contains a regularly updated library of garment care instructions and product literature.

#### CONCLUSION

FR is the sum of its parts—knowledgeable consultation, top-quality fabric materials, design innovation, precision manufacturing, flexible customization, prompt delivery, dedicated account executives and customer service. There may be other FR garment manufacturers who provide some of these advantages, but the challenge is finding one who fulfills them all. Workrite specializes in the "all of it" approach, resulting in FR garments that:

- Deliver the utmost in FR integrity and worker protection
- Last a long time and need to be replaced less often
- Represent a good value
- Are backed by deep expertise in FR and full capabilities to serve business-to-business customers
- Are part of one of the broadest and most frequently updated product lines in the industry, presenting a "one-stop shop" for all FR needs

