





2845 W. 48th Place Chicago, IL 60632 USA



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Westex Story	4-7
Overview of Westex Flame Resistant Fabrics	8-11
Westex Engineering Technology	12-13
Flame Resistant Clothing Basics	
Flame Resistance Overview	14
Primary vs. Secondary Protective Clothing	14
The Need for FR Clothing	15
Keys to Evaluating and Comparing FR Fabrics	15
Specify FR Fabrics by Brand Name	15
FR Protection	
Electric Arc Flash Protection	16-19
OSHA and NESC	18-19
The Con Edison Story	19
ATPV – Single-Layer	20
ATPV - Multi-Layer	21
Flash Fire Protection	22-24
Flash Fire Exposure: Chart Data	24
Molten Ferrous Metal Splash Protection	25
The Fabric Brand Matters	26
Why Specify Westex?	27

# RAISING THE BAR ON PROTECTION, COMFORT AND VALUE

At Westex we understand how complex it is to engineer a fabric that can support a true guarantee of flame resistance for the life of the garment. With tens of millions of yards shipped over 20 years, Westex UltraSoft® and Indura® brand fabrics have delivered on this guarantee under the harshest test conditions and, more importantly, in the field. When you combine this high level of protection with our proprietary fabric softening process and double-shrunk technology, it's easy to understand why thousands of end users globally have specified Westex fabrics. Because when it comes to safety, we will not compromise. It's that simple.

For ultimate peace of mind, choose Westex.



# A world leader in flame resistant fabrics

## THE WESTEX DIFFERENCE

Westex is the world's largest producer of durable flame resistant cotton and cotton blended fabrics. Because we're leaders in the industry, we're obligated and committed to not only produce superior FR fabric, but also to serve as a knowledgeable source of everything flame resistant. So we make a point of advancing education of our industry to the people who need it most — fabric purchasers and the workers that wear our fabric.

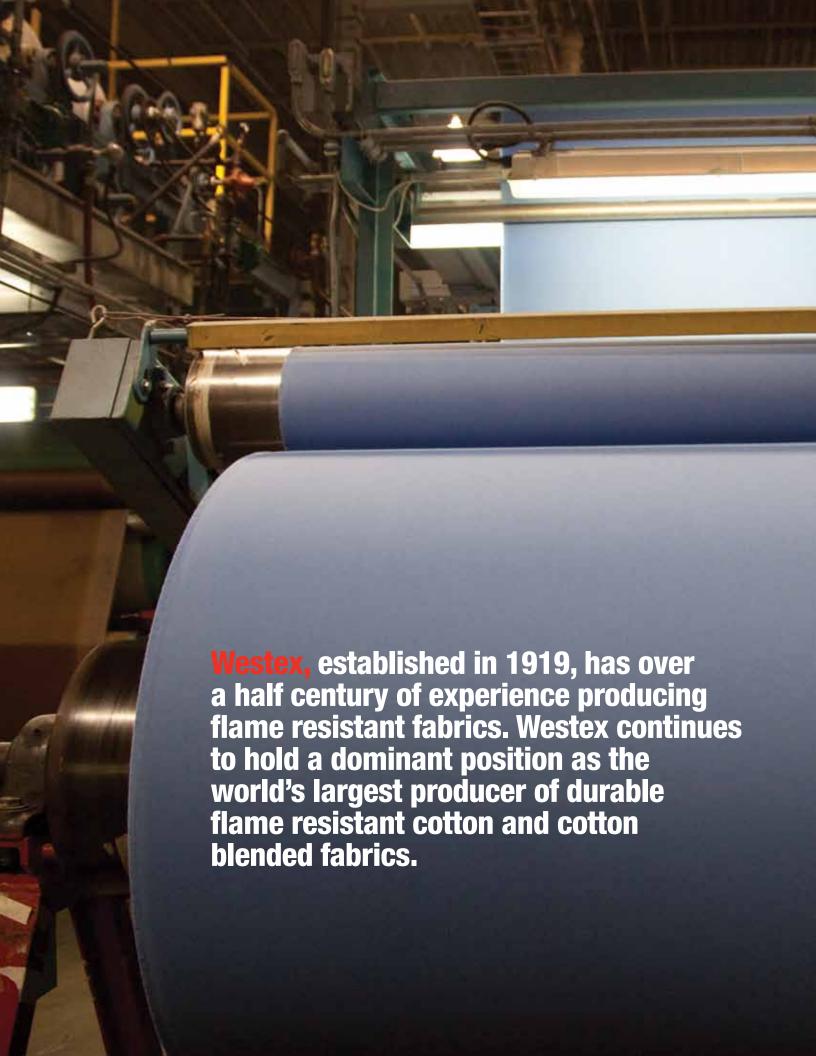
Our strict focus on progress does not end with education. Because even though we engineer the leading flame resistant fabrics in the industry, we can always work toward further improvements — and we do just that. As we discover and develop new flame resistant technology and enhanced comfort, we adopt best practices and adapt the newest advancements to our processes.

## UNCOMPROMISING PROTECTION, UNPARALLELED COMFORT

Westex flame resistant fabrics have market-proven protection against electric arc flash, flash fire and molten metal hazards. Through years of innovation, Westex UltraSoft® and Indura® fabrics provide the natural comfort characteristics of cotton. Because when FR fabric is comfortable for the wearers, they will be more likely to wear the attire — and more likely to wear it properly. We guarantee these fabrics to retain their flame resistance for the life of the garment — giving purchasers and workers total peace of mind. And now we are raising the bar even higher with the introduction of UltraSoft ACTM — the most comfortable flame resistant fabric ever made.

## LEADERSHIP AND PRODUCTS TRUSTED WORLDWIDE

With a network that spans the globe and products that are used all over the world, Westex is an acknowledged leader. But we don't take this position for granted. We are always striving to provide technical and educational information on the industry standards and flame resistant clothing. It's insight and support that our customers appreciate — and it's one of the many reasons they put their trust in Westex UltraSoft® and Indura® fabrics. It's all part of our commitment to offering the highest quality flame resistant fabrics in the world.





Westex has made a commitment to continual improvement of protective fabrics through innovative research and development. Our strong commitment to inventory, coupled with close to 750,000 square feet of manufacturing and warehousing in two domestic facilities and three state-of-the-art production lines, allows Westex to provide unparalleled, worldwide support to the protective clothing marketplace.

Westex flame resistant fabrics are the premier brands in the industry and, today, they are specified at thousands of end-user companies globally. Millions of garments made from the Westex fabric line are being worn today by workers in many industries, including electrical maintenance, electric and gas utilities, oil, gas, petrochemical, chemical, military, and metals.

Westex recognizes that in the event of an electric arc flash, flash fire, molten metal splash or other thermal exposure, the performance of the flame resistant fabric used to construct the garment is a critical factor in determining the level of protection the garment will afford the wearer. The FR fabric is also a main factor in determining the comfort, durability and the overall value equation of an FR protective clothing program. Over the past half century. Westex has earned a reputation for building the most advanced systems, equipment and technology in the industry. Westex is committed to consistently producing the highest quality flame resistant cotton and cotton blend fabrics possible, providing excellent service and technical support, and continuing to focus on innovative research and development to further enhance the safety, comfort and value of protective clothing programs.

This brochure will emphasize the characteristics of Westex UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC $^{\text{TM}}$  and Indura® brand fabrics in balancing the three crucial factors significant to the implementation of a protective clothing program: Protection, Comfort and Value.

Knowledgeable Westex representatives are readily available to assist with any questions you may have. Please call us toll free at 866-493-7839 or visit westex.com.



## BECAUSE JUST MEETING THE STANDARDS IS NOT ENOUGH

At Westex we understand how complex it is to engineer a fabric that can support a true guarantee of flame resistance for the life of the garment. With tens of millions of yards shipped over 20 years, UltraSoft® and Indura® brand fabrics have delivered on this guarantee under the harshest test conditions and, more importantly, in the field. When you combine this high level of protection with our proprietary fabric softening process and double-shrunk technology, it's easy to understand why thousands of end users globally have specified Westex fabrics.

Our proprietary technology gives us complete control over safety and comfort — from start to finish. The Westex difference extends beyond the critical engineering technology to internal and external testing and unmatched technical support.

Westex advanced engineering technology includes:

- Westex Flame Resistant Guarantee To deliver on this guarantee, we use proprietary engineering processes involving a special
  fabric-preparation process; specialized, custom-engineered equipment; several additional steps in the multi-step FR engineering process;
  computer monitoring equipment; and extensive laboratory testing.
- Specialized Softening Process For ultimate softness and comfort, we put our fabrics through a multi-step softening process. This unique procedure gives us the industry's preferred fabric feel and natural cotton comfort.
- Double-Shrunk Technology Our proprietary double-shrunk technology is far superior to any other process utilized today. This
  advanced technology is engineered into every yard of UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™ and Indura® fabric.

## **UltraSoft®**

88% Cotton, 12% High Tenacity Nylon

UltraSoft® was first introduced in 1996. Today, UltraSoft® brand flame resistant fabrics are specified by thousands of end-user companies in many industries around the world. With millions of garments in service worldwide, UltraSoft® has a strong reputation for providing an excellent balance of protection, comfort and value.

## **UltraSoft AC™**

88% Pima Cotton, 12% High Tenacity Nylon

Introducing the world's most comfortable FR fabric yet — UltraSoft AC™ (available spring 2011). Developed with the same proven Westex technology, UltraSoft AC™ provides advanced comfort with long-staple pima cotton to further enhance cotton's natural comfort characteristics, added strength and improved appearance after laundering.

## **Indura**®

100% COTTON

Indura®, introduced in 1987, was the first cotton fabric guaranteed flame resistant for the life of the garment. Since 1987, millions of garments made with Indura® have been installed in successful protective clothing programs worldwide. Indura® is still popular in the metal industry and with budget conscious contractors.

## **QUICK FACTS**

- Since 1996
- Guaranteed flame resistance for the life of the garment
- Soft feel for enhanced comfort
- Enhanced protection from electric arc and flash fire exposures
- Multipurpose protection from electric arc flash, flash fire, molten ferrous metal and welding exposures
- 75%+ extended garment wear life
- Double-shrunk technology
- Excellent value equation



The **UltraSoft®** line of flame resistant 88% cotton/12% high tenacity nylon fabrics, introduced in 1996, is guaranteed flame resistant for the life of the garment in either high temperature industrial or home washing procedures. The fabric is engineered to focus the excellent abrasion resistance of the nylon on the outer surface to enhance garment wear life, while the cotton fibers are focused towards the skin to optimize comfort. In addition, UltraSoft® fabrics are engineered to have an extremely soft feel to further enhance the superior comfort properties of cotton. UltraSoft® fabrics are fully flame resistant and the 12% nylon actually enhances the protective performance in some cases, such as electric arc and flash fire exposures.

## ULTRASOFT® IS AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING STYLES:

UltraSoft® 88% Cotton 12% High Tenacity Nylon Woven Fabrics				
STYLE	WEIGHT	WEAVE	ATPV (cal/cm²)	NFPA 70E Hazard Risk Category (HRC)
301 Shirt/Lt. Wt. Coverall Twill	7 oz (237 g/m²)	Twill	8.7	2
451 Pant/Coverall Twill	9 oz (305 g/m²)	Twill	12.4	2
331 Chambray Denim Shirting	5.5 oz (186 g/m²)	Twill	6.0	1
341 Lightweight Shirting Twill	5.5 oz (186 g/m²)	Twill	6.1	1
881 Basketweave	8 oz (271 g/m²)	Basketweave	9.8	2
391 Denim	13 oz (440 g/m²)	Denim Twill	19.5	2
801 Heavyweight Sateen	13 oz (440 g/m²)	Sateen	21.0	2
961 Duck	11 oz (372 g/m²)	Duck	12.7	2

UltraSoft® 88% Cotton 12% High Tenacity Nylon Knit & Fleece Fabrics				
STYLE	WEIGHT WEAVE ATPV CCATEGORY (CATEGORY (CATEGOR			
130 Interlock Knit	6 oz (203 g/m²)	Interlock Knit	10.9	2
131* Rib Knit	6.5 oz (220 g/m²)	Rib Knit	12.1	2
180 Fleece	11 oz (372 g/m²)	Fleece	21.8 (Ebt)	2
181* Rib Knit	10.5 oz (355 g/m²)	Rib Knit	24.7	2

<sup>\*</sup> Content = 86% cotton/12% high tenacity nylon/2% Spandex

## **QUICK FACTS**

- New 2011
- Guaranteed flame resistance for the life of the garment
- Advanced comfort of cotton
- Pima cotton softness
- Enhanced protection from electric arc and flash fire exposures
- Multipurpose protection from electric arc flash, flash fire, molten ferrous metal and welding exposures
- 75%+ extended garment wear life
- Double-shrunk technology
- Excellent value equation

## **6** UltraSoft AC™

**UltraSoft AC™** is the next evolution of the UltraSoft® family of fabrics. UltraSoft AC™ is a line of flame resistant 88% pima cotton/12% high tenacity nylon fabrics that is guaranteed flame resistant for the life of the garment in either high temperature industrial or home washing procedures. With the finest long-staple pima cotton and advanced softening technology, UltraSoft AC™ will prove to be the most comfortable flame resistant fabric on the market. When your biggest obstacle is comfort, UltraSoft AC™ is the innovation to meet your employees' needs.

## ULTRASOFT AC™ IS AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING STYLES:

UltraSoft AC™ 88% Cotton 12% High Tenacity Nylon				
STYLE	WEIGHT WEAVE ATPV CATEGORY (HE			
901 Shirt/Lt. Wt. Coverall Twill	7 oz (237 g/m²)	Twill	8.3	2
951 Pant/Coverall Twill	9 oz (305 g/m²)	Twill	TBD	TBD

## **QUICK FACTS**

- Since 1987
- Guaranteed flame resistance for the life of the garment
- Multipurpose protection from electric arc flash, flash fire, molten ferrous metal and welding exposures
- Double-shrunk technology
- Lower initial cost
- Comfort of cotton



Westex's original **Indura**® line of flame resistant 100% cotton fabrics, introduced in 1987, is guaranteed flame resistant for the life of the garment in either high temperature industrial or home washing procedures. In fact, the Indura® brand name was derived from "industrial (wash) durability," due to the fact that Indura® was the first flame resistant cotton fabric that was engineered to provide guaranteed flame resistance. Since the introduction of Indura® in 1987, millions of garments have been installed in successful protective clothing programs worldwide. Today, Indura® is still popular for use in denim jeans, jackets and pants in the metals industry and in coveralls for budget conscious contractors.

## INDURA® IS AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING STYLES:

Indura® 100% Cotton Wovens				
STYLE	WEIGHT	WEAVE	ATPV (cal/cm²)	NFPA 70E Hazard Risk Category (HRC)
30 Shirting Twill	7 oz (237 g/m²)	Twill	7.7	1
45 Twill	9 oz (305 g/m²)	Twill	10.8	2
85 Sateen	9 oz (305 g/m²)	Sateen	11.5	2
306 Denim	12 oz (406 g/m²)	Denim Twill	14.4	2
308 Denim	14 oz (473 g/m²)	Denim Twill	18.3	2
315 USS Whipcord	12 oz (406 g/m²)	Whipcord	12.9	2

All ATPV results based on independent tests conducted at Kinectrics per ASTM F1959



## **END-USE APPLICATION**

Today, UltraSoft® brand flame resistant fabrics are specified by thousands of end-user companies in many industries around the world. With millions of garments in service worldwide, UltraSoft® has a strong reputation for providing an excellent balance of protection, comfort and value. Licensed manufacturers use UltraSoft® and UltraSoft AC™ to produce garments for electric arc flash protection in electric utilities and electrical maintenance; for protection from flash fire in the oil, gas, chemical and petrochemical industries; and for protection from molten ferrous metal splash in steel mills and foundries. They are also used in military, wildland firefighting and tactical clothing applications.

## **CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™ and Indura® brand fabrics have been designed to withstand the most rigorous industrial laundering conditions anticipated for proper cleaning of work clothing. Westex guarantees the flame resistance of UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™ and Indura® fabrics for the useful life of such garments when proper care procedures are employed. It's important to recognize that the thermal protective properties of any flame resistant fabric can be compromised by the presence of contaminants in the fabric from which the garment is made. Please contact Westex or visit westex.com for a detailed cleaning and maintenance guide.

## PROPRIETARY STATE-OF-THE-ART

## Westex guarantees the flame resistance of UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™ and Indura® fabrics for the life of the garment.

This guarantee has been demonstrated in laboratory testing and through the auditing of samples from the millions of garments in the protective clothing marketplace for over two decades. There are many "unseen" details that go into the production of durable flame resistant cotton and cotton blend fabrics. This starts with the production of the base material, dyeing, preparation, FR engineering process, internal laboratory testing, external laboratory testing and technical support, all the way to the proven performance of the FR fabric in the market. We have spent decades perfecting the highly

technical, proprietary flame resistant fabric technology to produce our trusted fabrics, which are market-proven, world-leading brands. This high level of performance is achieved by Westex's proprietary production process, which combines advanced, custom-engineered machinery with sophisticated computer equipment to conduct the "ammonia cure" system.

## **CONTROL FROM START TO FINISH**





## DEVELOP CUSTOM-ENGINEERED SPECIFICATIONS

Westex's strict custom-engineered specifications for the construction of the base fabrics are designed to work well with the Westex FR engineering process and optimize wear performance.

## SPIN FIBERS TO YARNS

UltraSoft® and
UltraSoft AC™ fabrics
contain very specialized
high tenacity nylon fibers
that have excellent
abrasion resistant
properties. These fibers
are intimately blended
with cotton fibers and
spun using ring-spinning
technology to produce
the highest strength
fabric possible.

## **WEAVE FABRIC**

Westex base fabrics are woven to focus the excellent abrasion resistance of the nylon on the face of the fabric to enhance garment wear life, while the cotton fibers are focused towards the skin to optimize comfort.

## DYE FABRIC

UltraSoft®,
UltraSoft AC™ and
Indura® fabrics are
dyed using the highest
quality dyes available
for cotton fabrics
to assure optimal
lightfast and colorfast
performance on a
consistent basis.

## SPECIAL PREPARATION PROCESS

Westex employs advanced proprietary fabric preparation steps that specifically prepare the fabrics for the Westex engineering process.

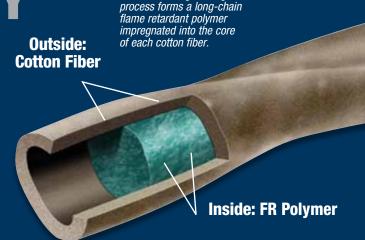
## SPECIALIZED MULTI-STEP TECHNOLOGY

The details of Westex's engineering process are proprietary but, in part, the specialized technology involves a special fabric-preparation process, custom-engineered equipment, several additional steps in the multi-step FR engineering process, computer monitoring equipment and extensive laboratory testing.



## **WESTEX TECHNOLOGY**

In the Westex engineering process, a high-quality phosphonium salt precondensate flame retardant chemical is applied and polymerized with gaseous ammonia forming a long-chain flame retardant polymer impregnated into the core of each cotton fiber. This flame retardant polymer acts as a catalyst promoting the charring of the fabric. This accelerated charring prohibits the support of combustion by reducing the fuel source. The flame retardant chemical acts in the solid phase to produce this char. Please contact Westex or visit westex.com for a detailed UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™ and Indura® cleaning and maintenance guide.



The Westex engineering





## MULTI-STEP FABRIC SOFTENING

Westex's proprietary multi-step fabric softening process involves a unique balance of chemical and mechanical procedures. The advanced technology provides dramatically improved softness and comfort.

## DOUBLE-SHRUNK TECHNOLOGY

Westex's proprietary double-shrunk technology is far superior to any other process utilized today. This advanced technology is engineered into every yard of UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™ and Indura® fabric.

## INTERNAL TESTING & DOCUMENTATION

Westex has a governmentcertified laboratory with a full staff of experienced technicians who administer a full battery of tests consistently throughout each production lot. The test reports, along with retained samples from the lot, are filed in Westex's laboratory and available for inspection.

## EXTERNAL LABORATORY TESTING

Westex has committed a large annual budget on an ongoing basis to independent testing to fully evaluate electric arc flash performance and flash fire performance of UltraSoft\*, UltraSoft AC\*\* and Indura®.

## SHIP FABRIC TO LICENSED CUSTOMER

Westex requires all customers to sign a Sales & Trademark License Agreement, which requires, in part, for the garment manufacturer to sew an UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™ or Indura® label into the garment to allow the end user to easily identify the brand of fabric that was used to produce the garment.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT AFTER THE SALE

Westex is fully committed to the protective clothing marketplace and we stand behind every yard of UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™ and Indura® sold. We offer comprehensive technical assistance to our customers, distributors and end users both before and after the sale.



## FLAME RESISTANT (FR) CLOTHING BASICS

Flame resistance is the characteristic of a fabric that causes it to self-extinguish when the source of ignition is removed. The most commonly used test method is ASTM D6413\* Standard Test Method for Flame Resistance of Textiles (Vertical Test). The vertical flame test is a test method with no pass/fail requirements. Industryestablished standards range from 4" to 6" (100 mm to 150 mm) maximum char lengths. It is very important for flame resistant fabrics to self-extinguish. Fabrics that self-extinguish after the source of ignition is removed can dramatically reduce body burn percentage and increase the chance for survival. However, char length measurements by themselves have no correlation to the protection afforded by a flame resistant fabric. True protection to thermal events is better measured by testing the thermal resistance of fabrics against exposures to simulated hazards, such as the flash fire manikin test or the arc thermal performance test — both of which we perform on a regular basis.

## **ASTM D6413**







Vertical flame test on UltraSoft® fabric

"Although passing the vertical flammability requirements is an essential criterion for protective clothing fabrics, it is only one of a battery of tests that fully describes the protective characteristics."

## PRIMARY VS. SECONDARY PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

## **EXAMPLES OF PRIMARY PROTECTIVE CLOTHING**





**Primary Protective Clothing** is defined as clothing that is designed to be worn for work activities where significant exposure to molten substance splash, radiant heat and flame is likely to occur. Examples of primary protective clothing are firefighter turnout gear and aluminized suits. UltraSoft<sup>®</sup>, UltraSoft AC<sup>™</sup> and Indura<sup>®</sup> are not designed for use as primary protective clothing.

## **EXAMPLES OF SECONDARY PROTECTIVE CLOTHING**









**Secondary Protective Clothing** is designed for continuous wear in designated locations where intermittent exposure to molten substance splash, radiant heat and flame is possible (as defined by ASTM Standard F1002). UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™ and Indura® flame resistant fabrics are designed for and ideal for use as secondary protective clothing.

## THE NEED FOR FR CLOTHING

Every day, workers in the electrical maintenance, utility, oil, gas, petrochemical and steel industries work in environments that may expose them to hazards that could cause severe or fatal burn injuries. In the event of a momentary electric arc, flash fire or molten metal splash exposure, everyday non-flame resistant work clothes can ignite and will continue to burn even after the source of ignition has been removed. Untreated natural fabrics will continue to burn until the fabric is totally consumed and non-flame resistant synthetic fabrics will burn with melting and dripping, causing severe contact burns to the skin. Government reports note that the majority of severe and fatal burn injuries are due to the individual's clothing igniting and continuing to burn, not by the exposure itself. The use of flame resistant clothing will provide thermal protection at the exposure area. The level of protection typically rests in the fabric weight and composition. After the source of the ignition is removed, flame resistant garments will self-extinguish, limiting the body burn percentage.

## KEYS TO EVALUATING AND COMPARING FR FABRICS

The first step when deciding on your best choice for FR is to search out and evaluate information that was generated using the following three criteria. By doing this you can evaluate different types of FR fabrics on a level playing field and ensure that you're comparing "apples to apples."

- 1. Identify your potential hazard. Exposures such as electric arc flash and flash fire are unique hazards with vastly different characteristics and the test results do not directly correlate to one another. The results from flash fire testing should not be substituted for electric arc flash testing when evaluating products. Be wary of fiber and/or fabric producers that attempt to draw comparisons between these two hazards.
- 2. Identify industry consensus standards for the exposure. Industry standards have been developed for electric arc flash and flash fire testing. For electric arc flash, ASTM has developed F1959, which produces an ATPV (Arc Thermal Performance Value). NFPA 2112 was created for employees that work in environments where a potential flash fire hazard exists.
- 3. Make sure the testing is conducted at independent laboratories. This will help ensure that unbiased and scientifically valid data is being produced. While it is often helpful and interesting to witness testing conducted by a company that has a vested interest in the FR business, there is no substitute for information generated at an independent laboratory.

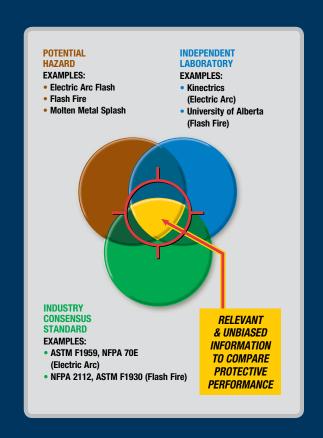




Non-flame resistant clothing UltraSoft<sup>a</sup>

## SPECIFY FR FABRICS BY BRAND NAME

It is important to recognize that industry consensus standards only provide minimum performance criteria for flame resistant fabrics. While these standards typically provide a fair basis for comparing protective properties, they do not adequately address other important performance characteristics that are critical to achieving long-term success in an FR clothing program. Many unproven and/or generic FR fabrics promote the fact that they "meet the standards." However, they often experience quality problems including, but not limited to, inconsistent FR durability to laundering, poor shrinkage control, stiff feel, excessive color fading and UV degradation. And why go with a company that just meets standards, instead of a business that goes beyond? Investigating a fabric's performance in the real world and evaluating the experience and expertise of the company producing the product has become a necessary step in a global marketplace. Like many products in the safety category. the majority of companies specify FR fabrics by brand name to ensure compliance and a long-term successful FR program. For the highest level of protection, comfort and value, insist on Westex — every time.





# **ELECTRIC ARC FLASH PROTECTION**

## **Arch Flash Exposures**

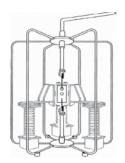
An electric arc flash is a dangerous release of energy created by an electrical fault that contains thermal energy, pressure waves, acoustical energy and debris. The intense energy and very short duration of an electric arc flash represents a very unique exposure. The NFPA 70E standard says that the temperature of an electric arc flash can reach 35,000°F.

The thermal energy released in an electric arc flash is expressed in calories per centimeter squared (cal/cm<sup>2</sup>). A typical electric arc flash can release energy levels from 4 cal/cm<sup>2</sup> to 30 cal/cm<sup>2</sup> and exposures between 30 cal/cm<sup>2</sup> and 60 cal/cm<sup>2</sup> are not uncommon. Everyday work clothes made from regular cotton or poly/ cotton fabrics can be readily ignited at exposure levels as low as 4-5 cal/cm<sup>2</sup> and once ignited will continue to burn adding to the extent of injury sustained from the arc alone. Many people consider non-flame resistant 100% cotton as an acceptable option for protection from an electric arc flash because there is not a synthetic component that can melt, drip and adhere to the skin. However, non-flame resistant 100% cotton can ignite just as easily as poly/cotton fabric in an electric arc flash. While 100% cotton will not melt and drip, it burns hotter then poly/cotton fabrics and typically is heavier, allowing it to burn longer and making it harder to extinguish. Go to westex.com to see videos of both 100% cotton and poly/cotton in live arc flash testing.

ASTM F1506 (Standard Performance Specification for Textile Materials for Wearing Apparel for Use by Electrical Workers Exposed to Momentary Arc and Related Thermal Hazards) was developed to give minimum performance specifications for protective clothing. The major requirement of this specification was that the fabric used in garments is flame resistant and has been tested to ASTM F1959 to receive an Arc Rating or ATPV (Arc Thermal Performance Value). ASTM F1959 (Standard Test Method for Determining the Arc Rating of Materials for Clothing) exposes panels of flame resistant fabrics to electric arc flashes of varying energies. Both the heat transmission through the fabric and the energy released by the electric arc are measured. The data is evaluated against the Stoll curve (or second degree burn curve) through logistic regression techniques to determine the probability of burn injury. The arc rating of the fabric or fabric system is then determined.



General Industry



ASTM F1959 standard test method for determining the Arc Rating of Materials for Clothing



Actual test performed according to ASTM F1959 test method

# **ELECTRIC ARC FLASH PROTECTION**

## NFPA 70E

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) published the latest edition of the NFPA 70E Standard (Standard for Electrical Safety Requirements for Employee Workplaces) in 2009. NFPA 70E states, "employees shall wear FR clothing wherever there is a possible exposure to an electric arc flash." This requires employees working on or near energized parts and equipment to wear flame resistant clothing that meets the requirements of ASTM F1506 and is appropriate to the potential energy of the hazard. Employers are required to perform a flash hazard analysis to determine the potential energy of the hazard and the flash protection boundary. A flash hazard analysis can be performed by calculating the







NFPA 70E states, "employees shall wear FR clothing wherever there is a possible exposure to an electric arc flash."

potential incident energy of a piece of equipment or using Hazard Risk Category Classifications. Protective clothing must meet the calculated incident energy or the corresponding Hazard Risk Category that has an arc rating of at least the value listed in the "Protective Clothing Characteristics" section of the standard.

The vast majority of major companies in the U.S. have some employees that work on or near energized parts and equipment. OSHA considers the NFPA 70E standard a "recognized industry practice."

## **SIMPLIFY COMPLIANCE TO NFPA 70E**

Many companies have decided to simplify compliance to NFPA 70E by implementing everyday uniform programs using Westex garments that meet the requirements of NFPA 70E Hazard Risk Categories (HRC) 0, 1 and 2 as a single layer (see chart on page 19). This can alleviate employer concerns about leaving the difficult decision of determining whether a specific routine electrical task is HRC 0, 1 or 2 in the hands of the employee. Please refer to NFPA 70E Annex H Simplified Two-Category, Flame Resistant (FR) Clothing Approach. To supplement everyday uniforms, arc flash suits and hoods in double-layer UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™ and Indura® combinations are available for higher energy HRC 3 and 4 level tasks.

## **LIVE ARC FLASH TESTING**

Westex conducted a series of tests to create "real-life" arc flashes using common 480-volt equipment to help companies better understand the magnitude of the arc flash hazards that exist in nearly every facility in the world and highlight the importance of complying with the NFPA 70E standard. Our testing videos clearly demonstrate that, if you work on or near energized parts and equipment, wearing market-proven flame resistant clothing and other PPE can and does dramatically reduce injury and save lives. Please go to westex.com to view the videos in their entirety.

## **ELECTRIC UTILITIES**

## **OSHA**

OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration) in the United States has confirmed that garments that meet the requirements of ASTM F1506 are in compliance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.269 Electrical Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution, with regard to garments not contributing to burn severity. ASTM F1506 is a minimum industry standard.

By utilizing flame resistant garments, utilities can comply with OSHA requirements and avoid potentially more serious burn injuries from garment ignition.

Con Edison of New York has specified UltraSoft® by brand as the fabric of choice for their electrical workers.

## Standard for NFPA 70E Safety Requirements for Employee Workplaces — 2009 Edition. (Table 130.7 [C] [II] Protective Clothing Characteristics MINIMUM ARC RATING (cal/cm²) HAZARD RISK CATEGORY CLOTHING DESCRIPTION SINGLE LAYER FABRIC OPTIONS O Non-melting flammable materials N/A Style 301 Shirt/Coverall & Style 451 Pant/Coverall Meet HRCs 0, 1, & 2. Arc rated FR Shirt and FR Pants or 4 FR Coverall UltraSoft AC<sup>™</sup> Style 901 Shirt/Coverall & Style 951 Pant/Coverall Meet HRCs 0, 1, & 2. Arc rated FR Shirt and FR Pants or 2 8 FR Coverall 3 Arc rated FR Shirt and FR Pants or 25 FR Coverall, and arc flash suit selected so that the system arc rating meets the required minimum Arc rated FR Shirt and FR Pants or 40 FR Coverall, and arc flash suit selected so that the system arc rating meets the required minimum

## **NESC**

The NESC (National Electrical Safety Code) covers workers during the installation, operation or maintenance of electric supply and communication lines and associated equipment. The 2007 version now contains rules that cover the use of flame resistant clothing.

Effective on January 1, 2009, employers must perform a hazard risk analysis for employees that work on or near energized parts or equipment. If the assessment determines that energies available are over 2 cal/cm², then protective clothing (or clothing systems) shall be worn that has an arc rating equal to or greater than the anticipated level of energy.



## **The Con Edison Story**

Con Edison of New York recently spent multiple years and several million dollars doing testing to examine the protective performance of a wide variety of safety equipment, including protective clothing. Con Edison's testing was revolutionary in that they performed it outside of laboratory conditions and were able to simulate real-world underground vault and overhead scenarios. Con Edison opened the doors to the testing facility and information generated for other electric utility companies, energy companies and electrical contractors to learn and help become educated on the dangers of an electric arc flash and how to better protect their employees.

This unprecedented test series was a major advancement forward in understanding the severe nature of an electric arc flash. The testing also uncovered additional elements not seen in laboratory testing including underground confined and overhead exposures, and molten metal exposure from equipment.



## NFPA 70E HRC 2 compliant

## **ELECTRIC ARC FLASH PROTECTION**

## **Single-layer ATPV Fabric Data**

UltraSoft® 88% Cotton 12% High Tenacity Nylon Woven Fabrics				
STYLE	WEIGHT	WEAVE	ATPV (cal/cm²)	NFPA 70E Hazard Risk Category (HRC)
301 Shirt/Lt. Wt. Coverall Twill	7 oz (237 g/m²)	Twill	8.7	2
451 Pant/Coverall Twill	9 oz (305 g/m²)	Twill	12.4	2
331 Chambray Denim Shirting	5.5 oz (186 g/m²)	Twill	6.0	1
341 Lightweight Shirting Twill	5.5 oz (186 g/m²)	Twill	6.1	1
881 Basketweave	8 oz (271 g/m²)	Basketweave	9.8	2
391 Denim	13 oz (440 g/m²)	Denim Twill	19.5	2
801 Heavyweight Sateen	13 oz (440 g/m²)	Sateen	21.0	2
961 Duck	11 oz (372 g/m²)	Duck	12.7	2

UltraSoft™ AC 88% Pima Cotton 12% High Tenacity Nylon				
STYLE	STYLE WEIGHT WEAVE ATPV CATEGORY (H			
901 Shirt/ Lt. Wt. Coverall Twill	7 oz (237 g/m²)	Twill	8.3	2
951 Pant/Coverall Twill	9 oz (305 g/m²)	Twill	TBD	TBD

UltraSoft® 88% Cotton 12% High Tenacity Nylon Knit & Fleece Fabrics				
STYLE	WEIGHT	WEAVE	ATPV (cal/cm²)	NFPA 70E Hazard Risk Category (HRC)
130 Interlock Knit	6 oz (203 g/m²)	Interlock Knit	10.9	2
131* Rib Knit	6.5 oz (220 g/m²)	Rib Knit	12.1	2
180 Fleece	11 oz (372 g/m²)	Fleece	21.8 (Ebt)	2
181* Rib Knit	10.5 oz (355 g/m²)	Rib Knit	24.7	2

<sup>\*</sup> Content = 86% cotton/12% high tenacity nylon/2% Spandex

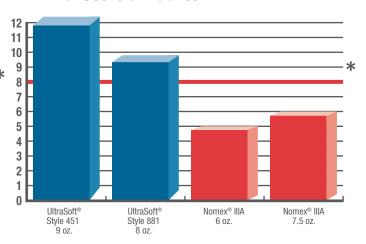
Indura® 100% Cotton Wovens				
STYLE	WEIGHT	WEAVE	ATPV (cal/cm²)	NFPA 70E Hazard Risk Category (HRC)
30 Shirting Twill	7 oz (237 g/m²)	Twill	7.7	1
45 Twill	9 oz (305 g/m²)	Twill	10.8	2
85 Sateen	9 oz (305 g/m²)	Sateen	11.5	2
306 Denim	12 oz (406 g/m²)	Denim Twill	14.4	2
308 Denim	14 oz (474 g/m²)	Denim Twill	18.3	2
315 USS Whipcord	12 oz (406 g/m²)	Whipcord	12.9	2

All ATPV results based on independent tests conducted at Kinectrics per ASTM F1959

## **ATPV Shirt/Lightweight Coverall Fabrics**

## 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Nomex®/FR Rayon Blend 4.5 oz. UltraSoft® Style 301 7 oz. UltraSoft® Style 130 6 oz. Nomex® IIIA 4.5 oz.

## **ATPV Pant/Coverall Fabrics**



## **MULTI-LAYER ATPV FABRIC DATA**

In addition to testing single-layer fabrics for arc ratings, Westex has tested over 100 combinations of UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™ and Indura® fabrics that could be used in layers. Layering could be used for cold weather comfort with multiple shirts, sweatshirts or insulated outerwear. Layering can also be effective in protecting to higher incident energies, such as NFPA 70E Hazard Risk Categories 3 and 4, that cannot be protected against with single-layer garments.

UltraSoft® Multi-Layer Shirt Combinations				
OUTER LAYER	UNDER LAYER	ATPV		
301 7 oz Shirt/Lt. Wt. Coverall Twill	130 6 oz Knit	28.7		
341 5.5 oz Lightweight Shirt	130 6 oz Knit	23.5		
130 6 oz Knit	130 6 oz Knit	26.9		
180 11 oz Fleece	301 7 oz Shirt Twill	45.2		
180 11 oz Fleece	341 5.5 oz Lightweight Shirt	38.9 (Ebt)		
180 11 oz Fleece	130 6oz Knit	38.8		

UltraSoft® Outerwear Combinations				
SHELL	LINER	ATPV		
	751 3M Thinsulate™ FR 120 g	37.2		
	752 3M Thinsulate™ FR 150 g	37.6		
301 7 oz Shirt/Lt. Wt. Coverall Twill	753 3M Thinsulate™ FR 200 g	44.1		
	710 Moda Quilt® 10 oz	35.8		
	709 Moda Quilt® 12 oz	37.2		
	751 3M Thinsulate™ FR 120 g	41.0		
	752 3M Thinsulate™ FR 150 g	44.6		
451 9 oz Pant/Jacket/Coverall Twill	753 3M Thinsulate™ FR 200 g	48.0		
	710 Moda Quilt® 10 oz	40.6		
	709 Moda Quilt® 12 oz	41.8		
	751 3M Thinsulate™ FR 120 g	46.5		
	752 3M Thinsulate™ FR 150 g	47.5		
961 11 oz Duck	753 3M Thinsulate™ FR 200 g	50.7		
	710 Moda Quilt® 10 oz	47.0		
	709 Moda Quilt® 12 oz	49.5		

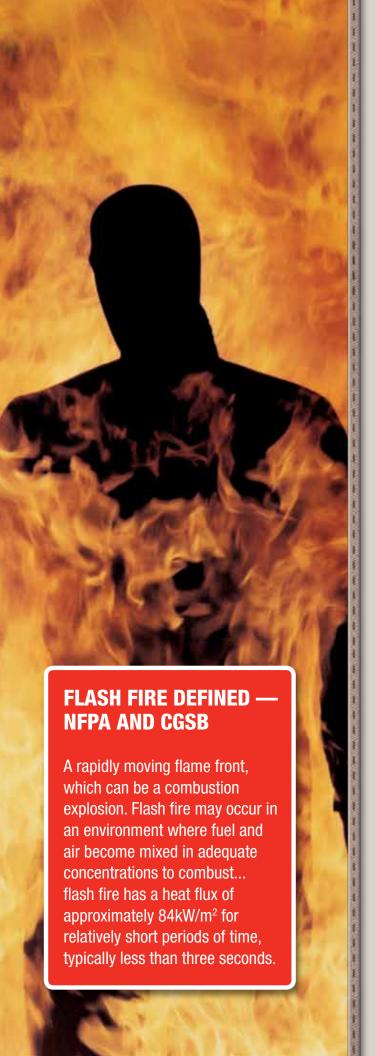
UltraSoft® Coverall Layering Combinations				
OUTER LAYER	UNDER LAYER	ATPV		
	301 7 oz Shirt Twill Shirt	27.2		
301 7 oz Shirt/Lt. Wt. Coverall Twill	341 5.5 oz Lightweight Shirt	26.7		
	451 9 oz Twill Pant	31.6		
	301 7 oz Twill Shirt	36.2		
451 9 oz Pant/Jacket/Coverall Twill	341 5.5 oz Lightweight Shirt	33.8		
	451 9 oz Twill Pant	38.7		
	301 7 oz Twill Shirt	51.5		
801 13 oz Heavyweight Sateen	341 5.5 oz Lightweight Shirt	51.1		
	451 9 oz Twill Pant	51.3		

UltraSoft® Arc Flash Suits		
OUTER LAYER	UNDER LAYER	ATPV
801 13 oz Heavyweight Sateen	341 5.5 oz Lightweight Shirt	51.1
	301 7 oz Twill Shirt	51.5
	451 9 oz Twill Pant	51.3









# FLASH FIRE PROTECTION

## PROTECTION FROM FLASH FIRE EXPOSURES

In the oil, gas, chemical and petrochemical industries, the threat of flash fire exposures has made the use of flame resistant clothing necessary. Flame resistant clothing minimizes burn injury and provides workers a few seconds of escape time. Nonflame resistant clothing can ignite instantly in a flash fire — with exposure providing an additional fuel source — dramatically increasing the burn injury percentage and severity. UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™, Indura® and Nomex® will all provide far more protection than non-flame resistant garments.

To compare the protective capabilities of Westex fabrics in relation to Nomex® IllA, thermal instrumented manikin tests were conducted at the University of Alberta, home to one of the very few independent flash fire manikin laboratories in the world. In service since 1989, lab workers have conducted thousands of tests for hundreds of clients. During testing, a manikin is exposed to a flash fire created by propane burners, and the resultant heat rise is measured by 110 thermocouples. Heat fluxes are precisely controlled to applicable standards, and a computer collects the data and, by comparison to the Stoll curve, is able to predict the extent, severity and location of second- and third-degree body burn.

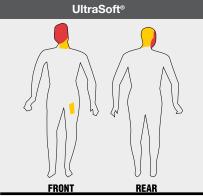
This testing reported here is, to the best of our knowledge, the largest and most comprehensive independent series ever conducted and published. All aspects of the protocol were strictly controlled to ensure maximum reliability and repeatability of results. All coveralls were commercially available, produced by a major manufacturer and sourced off-the-shelf in the same size and style. All were identically laundered and conditioned to full applicable standards prior to testing. All testing was conducted to the ASTM F1930 Standard Test Method, and all data points reflect the average of at least three replicates or more. The computer-generated body burn results highlighted on the next page are individual determinations of NFPA 2112 testing and are representative of the average. This three-second exposure data, along with a complete burn curve, are included later in the brochure.

The comparative weights offered in the marketplace for shirts and pants constructed with Westex fabrics and are 7 oz/yd² (237 g/m²) and 9 oz/yd² (305 g/m²) compared to 4.5 oz/yd² (153 g/m²) and 6 oz/yd² (203 g/m²) Nomex® IIIA fabric respectively. Therefore, the manikin tests were conducted segregating categories of "Shirting" and "Pant/Coverall" weights to accurately represent the garments that are commercially available.

## **COMPARING FLASH FIRE PERFORMANCE**What is Relevant for Secondary Protective Clothing?

- NFPA 2112 test exposure is set at three seconds.
- Secondary protective clothing is designed to provide the worker "a few seconds escape time."
- CGSB and NFPA define a flash fire as "typically three seconds or less."
- NFPA 2112 sets failure above 50% total body burn.

## PANT/COVERALL WEIGHT COMPARISON



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA Protective Clothing and Equipment Research Facility

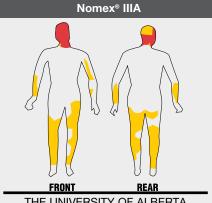
## Fire Protective Clothing Evaluation System 5-15-2007 451 UltraSoft® 9 oz

Test Type Flash Fire Simulation Exposure Time 3.06 sec. Measurement Time 60.0 sec.

Second-Degree Burn 5.15%

• Third-Degree Burn 4.00%

TOTAL BURN 9.15% BURN NUMBER 00964



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA Protective Clothing and Equipment Research Facility

## Fire Protective Clothing Evaluation System 4-24-2007 Nomex® IIIA 6 oz

Test Type Flash Fire Simulation Exposure Time 3.06 sec. Measurement Time 60.0 sec.

Second-Degree Burn 28.65%Third-Degree Burn 6.80%

TOTAL BURN 35.45% BURN NUMBER 00505

Note: 88% is the maximum possible since the hands and feet are excluded. All figures include 7% for the head.









UltraSoft® Nomex® IIIA

After 3-second flash fire exposure.



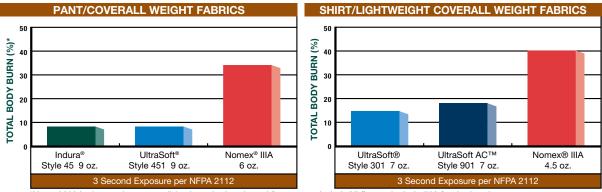
UltraSoft® Nomex® IIIA
Close-up views after 3-second
flash fire exposure.

## **FLASH FIRE PROTECTION**

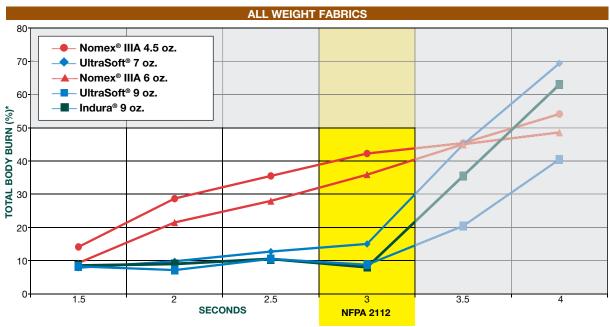
## PROTECTION FROM FLASH FIRE EXPOSURE: CHART DATA

## LABORATORY TESTING PROTOCOL

- · Independent university laboratory testing
- · Adherence to ASTM F1930 standard test method
- Identically sized and styled 42 regular coveralls
- All coveralls tested over 100% cotton T-shirts and briefs



\*Note: 88% is the maximum possible since the hands and feet are excluded. All figures include 7% for the head.



\*Note: 88% is the maximum possible since the hands and feet are excluded. All figures include 7% for the head.

Although three seconds has been established as the time frame to analyze the performance of secondary clothing, additional exposure times in the range of 1.5 to 4.0 seconds were examined to more completely profile fabric protective performance. The charts are highlighted up to three seconds and below 50% body burn in accordance with NFPA and CGSB standards and definitions. Within these parameters, **Westex fabrics have a protective advantage over Nomex**® **IIIA throughout the entire range of the burn curve.** The issue of relevance in comparing secondary protective clothing fabrics above these levels should be carefully considered. If your exposure potential is four to five seconds or produces body burns near or over 50%, Westex highly recommends protective clothing systems of multiple flame resistant layers or primary protective clothing such as turnout gear.

# MOLTEN FERROUS METAL SPLASH PROTECTION

## PROTECTION FROM FERROUS METAL & WELDING EXPOSURES

For over 40 years, heavyweight flame resistant cotton fabrics have been utilized by the steel industry for secondary protective clothing for workers doing routine tasks in steel processing. Secondary protective clothing is defined as "protective clothing for continuous wear during work activities in designated locations in which intermittent exposure to molten substance splash, radiant heat and flame sources are possible."

The essence of protection in this category rests in two critical factors:

- The fabric must be flame resistant so that it will not ignite and continue to burn when the heat source is removed.
- In the specific instance of exposure to molten ferrous metal, the fabric must demonstrate the ability to shed molten metal from its surface without sticking.

UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™ and Indura® fabrics have the unique ability to shed molten ferrous metals. While some charring may occur, the flame resistant properties of Westex fabrics will preclude ignition and continued combustion. Non-flame resistant cotton may shed ferrous metals and welding, however the potential for ignition and continued combustion is very high, thus increasing the injury potential.

When evaluating fabrics for molten metal applications, it is imperative that fabrics be evaluated on site in the form of testing and wear trials. Because different work sites handle different alloys, a trial with the specific metal must be made. Additionally, it should be recognized that worker protection from second-degree burn in ferrous metal processing is highly dependent on the quantity of metal exposed to and the number of layers and weight of fabric worn; therefore different fabric weights should be evaluated. A minimum weight of 9 oz/yd² (305 g/m²) fabrics is typically recommended for light welding/cutting operations and 12 oz/yd² (406 g/m²) or heavier fabrics for most other foundry and molten metal applications. In general, heavier weights will provide better insulation from heat transfer, but the end user must determine the most appropriate weight for their application.

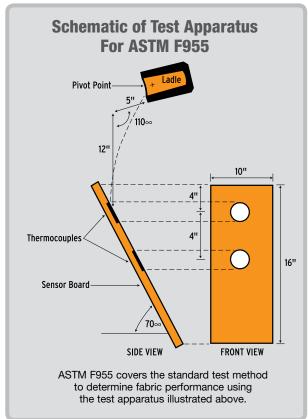
Nomex® fabrics are inappropriate for molten metal splash exposures since molten metals adhere to aramid fabrics.

Please note that UltraSoft®, UltraSoft AC™ and Indura® fabrics are not intended for use near molten aluminum.

Please contact Westex for information about Vinex® flame and aluminum splash resistant fabrics.







# WHEN SAFETY IS INVOLVED, THE FABRIC BRAND MATTERS

Many companies have made large investments in flame resistant clothing to keep their employees safe. Since FR fabric is a critical factor in determining the amount of protection the garment will provide, end users should take an active role in investigating and specifying the brand of fabric that is used to produce the finished garment. After all, the safety of your employees is too important to let just anyone make the fabric decision for you. Be sure to choose a company that is fully committed to raising the bar on protection and never making compromises. This will help ensure that a marginally lower up-front investment on a generic/off-brand product doesn't lead to employee injuries, program dissatisfaction or significant additional costs downstream.

## **WHY WESTEX?**

Generic and off-brand FR fabrics often claim they are "as good as" Westex fabrics — but our consistent performance proves there is no substitute for the original. We never stop pushing ourselves to create the safest, most comfortable fabrics possible — which is why we continue to be a world leader in FR and the largest manufacturer of flame resistant cotton and cotton blend fabrics.





## **EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE**

Established in 1919, Westex has been setting the standard for high quality flame resistant fabrics for decades.

## **CONSISTENT QUALITY**

Years of research and development, coupled with custom-engineered equipment and proprietary technology, give Westex fabrics superior performance characteristics.

## **INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP**

 Our commitment to the FR clothing market has allowed us to lead the industry with innovative new fabric styles and comprehensive technical support.

## MARKET-PROVEN PERFORMANCE

With decades of outstanding proven performance and millions of garments in service worldwide, Westex fabrics are truly proven products.

## PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND INVENTORY SUPPORT

With over one million square feet of "bricks and mortar" and five ranges, Westex can provide unparalleled worldwide support to the protective clothing market.

## **WHY SPECIFY WESTEX?**

## AN EXCELLENT BALANCE OF PROTECTION, COMFORT AND VALUE

For over a decade, Westex flame resistant fabrics have been specified by brand name at thousands of end-user companies around the world. Millions of garments made with Westex fabric have been installed into some of the harshest climates and conditions and they consistently provide a superior balance of protection, comfort and value.

## **LOOK FOR THE LABEL!**

Westex requires all customers to sign a Sales & Trademark License Agreement, which requires, in part, for the garment manufacturer to sew an UltraSoft®, UltraSoftAC $^{\text{TM}}$  or Indura® label into the garment to allow the end user to easily identify the brand of fabric that was used to produce the garment.

To learn more about our advanced line of flame resistant fabrics and view dramatic videos of arc flash and flash fire testing, visit **westex.com.** 

To speak with knowledgeable Westex representatives, call **866-4-WESTEX** (866-493-7839).

## **PROTECTION**

- Guaranteed Flame Resistant for the Life of the Garment
- Excellent Multipurpose Protection
- Electric Arc Flash
- Flash Fire
- Molten Metal/Welding

## **COMFORT**

- Comfort of Cotton
- Soft & Breathable
- Cool in the Summer
- Warm in Winter

## **VALUE**

- Enhanced Abrasion Resistance
- Double-Shrunk Technology
- 75%+ Extended Wear Life
- Excellent Value Equation



A WORLD LEADER IN FLAME RESISTANT FABRICS

## 866.493.7839 WESTEX.COM

The information in this brochure is based on testing conducted by or conducted on behalf of Westex and represents our analysis of the test results. It is not intended to substitute for any testing that may be unique and necessary for your facility for you to determine the suitability of our products for your particular purpose. Since we cannot anticipate all variations in enduser conditions, Westex makes no warranties and assumes no liability whatsoever in connection with any use of this information. All test results reported are based on standard laboratory tests related to exposure to arcs, flames and heat. Manikin tests yield laboratory predictions of relative burn injury based on factors such as fabric type, fabric weight, garment styling and fit, laundering, exposure energy and exposure time. The results reported should not be used to predict garment performance in actual fire situations. For maximum maintenance of the protective properties of garments made from flame resistant fabrics, garments should be properly cleaned for the thorough removal of greases, oily soil and other contaminants that may affect flame resistance of the fabric. Consult with the fabric supplier, garment manufacturer and launderer for recommendations of proper cleaning techniques.

Indura®, Ultra Soft®, Ultra Soft®, Ultra Soft® AC™, Moda-Quilt® and Vinex® are registered trademarks of Westex. Nomex® IIIA is a registered trademark of the DuPont Company. Thinsulate™ is a trademark of 3M Company.



100% WORK 0% WORRY

