

Resolution No. 16

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Health & Safety

Re: PPE Manufacturers Code of Conduct

1 WHEREAS, cancer continues to be the leading
2 cause of death among fire fighters; and

3 WHEREAS, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
4 (PFAS) and other potentially harmful substances
5 have been associated with cancer and other adverse
6 health effects; and

7 WHEREAS, Resolution 28 adopted at the 2021
8 IAFF Convention directed the IAFF to prioritize
9 transparency and accountability regarding potentially
10 harmful substances in fire fighter personal protective
11 equipment; and

12 WHEREAS, since the adoption of Resolution 28,
13 the IAFF has carried out the directives established by
14 the Convention through member education,
15 independent research, and accountability measures
16 designed to protect the health and safety of fire
17 fighters; and

18 WHEREAS, following adoption of Resolution 28,
19 the IAFF has not accepted sponsorship support from
20 PPE manufacturers or textile manufacturers under
21 the conditions established by the Convention; and

22 WHEREAS, in August 2022, the IAFF and the
23 Metro Chiefs jointly issued guidance alerting
24 members to potential health risks associated with
25 PFAS in protective gear; and

26 WHEREAS, since the adoption of Resolution 28,

27 the IAFF has worked to strengthen standards and
28 drive development of safer alternatives for the fire
29 service, resulting in PPE made without intentionally
30 added PFAS having come to market; and

31 WHEREAS, in August 2025, the IAFF issued
32 guidance regarding considerations in the purchase of
33 protective gear and provided members with
34 information related to PPE, testing procedures,
35 and updated standards; and

36 WHEREAS, delegates to the IAFF's 56th and
37 57th Conventions approved funding for independent
38 research into occupational cancer and its effects on
39 the long-term health of fire fighters, strengthening
40 the IAFF's ability to rely upon independent science
41 rather than industry-supported findings; and

42 WHEREAS, since the adoption of Resolution 28,
43 the IAFF has led efforts to strengthen standards
44 governing fire fighter PPE and advocated for
45 incorporation of a Restricted Substance List into the
46 NFPA 1970 Standard on Protective Ensembles for
47 Structural and Proximity Fire Fighting and Technical
48 Rescue Incidents; and

49 WHEREAS, the Restricted Substance List
50 establishes requirements limiting harmful substances
51 and chemicals in fire fighter PPE, including PFAS
52 and other substances associated with adverse health
53 effects; and

54 WHEREAS, as of September 2025, all newly
55 designed PPE must comply with Restricted
56 Substance List requirements and, as of March 18,
57 2026, all structural fire fighter PPE must comply

58 with those requirements; and

59 WHEREAS, the IAFF has developed a PPE
60 Manufacturers and Suppliers Code of Conduct
61 establishing expectations that the health and
62 safety of fire fighters shall take precedence over
63 commercial considerations; and

64 WHEREAS, the IAFF has made the PPE
65 Manufacturers and Suppliers Code of Conduct
66 publicly available as part of its commitment to
67 transparency and accountability; and

68 WHEREAS, the IAFF has worked collaboratively
69 with responsible manufacturers and suppliers to
70 promote transparency, accountability, and safer
71 for the fire service; therefore be it

72 RESOLVED, That the IAFF recognizes that
73 the directives established by Resolution 28 have
74 strengthened protections for members through
75 independent research, member education, stronger
76 standards, and increased accountability throughout
77 the PPE industry; and be it further

78 RESOLVED, That the IAFF shall build upon the
79 position established by Resolution 28 and may accept
80 sponsorship, advertising, or partnership support
81 from PPE manufacturers and suppliers that
82 demonstrate a commitment to fire fighter health
83 and safety through compliance with applicable PPE
84 standards, meet Restricted Substance List
85 requirements, and whose organizations adhere to the
86 IAFF PPE Manufacturers and Suppliers Code of
87 Conduct; and be it further

88 RESOLVED, That the IAFF Division of Health,

89 Safety, & Medicine shall continue utilizing
90 independent science and monitoring developments
91 within the PPE industry to ensure that the health
92 and safety of IAFF members remain the highest
93 priority.

Submitted by: IAFF Executive Board

Cost Estimate: **None**

Annual or Perpetual Designation: **N/A**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION: