

When it Comes To Hot Work Safety Material Matters

Three Short Stories that Illustrate Why You Should Insist on Certified Hot Work Fire Blankets

The Inquisitive Inspector

A Canadian mining company was cited on two separate occasions for not using rated hot work fabrics for their hot work operations. The inspector intimated a shutdown would be the next step if they did not pay attention to critical safety details such as using certified fire blankets. The mining company has since started using FM Approved hot work fabrics for their hot works operations. The word has spread and several other Canadian mining companies have also made changes to increase their safety and lower their risk.

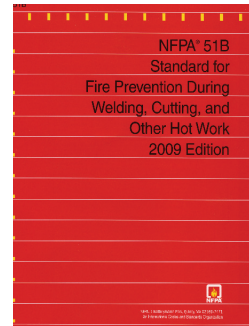
FM Approved Fire Blankets

- Are Independently Tested and Certified
- Are ANSI/FM4950 Approved
- Meet Canadian Codes and Standards
- Meet the Requirements of NFPA 51B (2009)



The "Itch" Factor

The Safety Supervisor at a Canadian refinery was getting frequent complaints from their workers that the fire blankets were extremely dusty and itchy. After inspection, it was discovered that they were using a low quality product, one in which the base material was not well coated, nor did it meet the NFPA 51B standard for hot work fabrics. With the help of local unions, several certified hot work fire blankets were tested. Despite being FM rated, some of the samples supplied were deemed too scratchy and itchy by the workers. They selected an FM Approved blanket that was non-irritating to the touch and rated for the specific hot work being performed. All in all, it was a win-win decision for both the refinery and the workers.



FM Approved Fire Blankets

- Are non-irritating
- Are rated based on severity of use to make it easier to specify the right product for the hot work application

Where Does it Come From?

Recently a purchasing manager at an oil refinery complained that the 17 ounce fire blankets they were using were fraying extensively and lacked the durability and longevity they required.

After review, the 17 ounce product they thought they ordered was actually labeled as a FM product, but in reality it was a 12 ounce material with very little coating. Because it came from outside the country, it was difficult to get answers or recourse. The purchasing manager is now insisting on a "proof of origin" certificate from the supplier to assure that the products are represented accurately, are labeled per the requirements of FM4950, and are manufactured in North America.

When it comes to hot work safety —material matters.

- Look for the FM Label
- Know what you are getting
- Buy North American
- Ask for a Certificate of Origin

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