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LAST REVISION: March 5 th , 2012	REVIEWED BY: L. Kirk Berglund, Safety Director	FORM REF No: GL45
SUBJ: Usage Guidance for NSA 45.8cal Balaclava and 45cal Goggles		

Usage Guidance for NSA 45.8cal Balaclava and 45cal Goggles

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this guidance letter is to ensure that all employees are aware of the protective limitations, selection (when to use), wear and care of the National Safety Apparel 45.8cal Balaclava and 45cal Goggle set.

2. BACKGROUND

The current Hazard Risk Categories (HRC) 3 and 4 as defined by NFPA 70E states that an arc flash type hood be used. The arc flash hood (bee keepers hood) provides a high level of protection from thermal and physical trauma injuries but at the same time creates a new set of problems. These problems relate to poor visibility, bulk and heat that could create additional hazards to the wearer.

In an effort to address these hazards and provide our employees with protective options, Meiners Electric has purchased the National Safety Apparel's 45.8cal Balaclava and 45cal Goggle set. This set when worn properly, overcomes the before mentioned limitations of the bee keepers type hood. Keep in mind that the Balaclava and Goggle set provides a ATPV rating of 45cal but may or may not provide the same level of physical trauma protection as afforded by the tradition bee keepers hood.

3. SELECTION

HRC Level 1 & 2 – Balaclava and Goggles are to be used.

HRC Level 3 & 4 – The bee keepers style arc flash hood shall always be the default selection for HRC 3 & 4 incident energy levels unless it can be determined that the use of the hood may create additional hazards. These hazards may include, but are not limited to:

- a). Poor Visibility
- b). Overhead electrical work
- c). Tight working areas
- d). Heat exhaustion

Note: If there is a high probability of a high energy arc flash event, the bee keepers style hood shall be used.



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4. PROPER WEAR

As with all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), proper wear is imperative to insure that the manufacturers stated safety level(s) are met.

- a). Inspect the balaclava and goggles before every use insuring that all parts are serviceable – No holes, damaged rubber, damaged lenses, etc. If damage is identified, do not use.
- c). Insert in-canal type hearing protection.
- d). The balaclava is pulled over the head and draped over the shoulders. The arc flash rated shirt or jacket is to be buttoned over the skirt of the balaclava insuring that no skin is exposed.
- e). Place goggles on and adjust side straps insuring that the goggles completely cover the eye openings of the balaclava and are tightly fitted. Have yourself checked before starting any work. Remember, no exposed skin!
- f). Don your hardhat making sure it is fitted over the balaclava securely.

5. CARE and MAINTENANCE

The balaclava you have been issued is personal protective equipment due to direct body contact and should not be shared unless washed before hand.

- a). Wash balaclava in warm water with a mild detergent separately from other fabrics. Do not use bleach or fabric softener. Dry-warm cycle and remove immediately.
- c). Wash the rubber areas of the goggles in warm water only and clean the lenses with lens cloth.
- d). Inspect as you clean!
- e). After use or cleaning, place the goggles inside the balaclava to protect the lens from scratches.