

# Fire Retardant Clothing “FRC”

Field Location Laundering  
Procedures Awareness Training



# Why are we washing Fire Retardant Clothing?

Due to recent governmental regulations changes as well as making the workplace safer, several of SONOCO's customers now require that all outside field person(s) wear fire retardant clothing due to the risk and exposures employees face on a daily basis.

Employees who work outdoors or in the production areas of most rigs, platforms, boats and plants are required to wear the fire retardant clothing to protect against flash fires and the associated injuries that they cause.

# What is Fire Retardant Clothing?

Fire retardant fabrics are textiles that are naturally more resistant to fire than others through chemical treatment or manufactured fireproof fibers.

## Terms and test limitations

The term **fire retardant** as applied to organic (i.e., containing carbon) materials, is intended to refer to *reduced* fire hazard, as all will burn under certain circumstances.

The tests used specified in building codes, such as NFPA 701, are more correctly **flame resistance** tests, which test a fabric's ability to resist ignition with the flame size and duration in the test conditions.

The result is a comparative test, which provides a measure of the material's resistance to propagating combustion caused by small scale ignition sources.



FRC Clothing sent for laundering **MUST** be separated from all other laundry items while washing & drying.

Improper washing of FRC Clothing can affect its fire retardant properties and not protect the employees wearing them. It is very important that the clothing is handled, laundered and stored correctly to prevent damage to the clothing.

Once clothing is separated, FRC clothing can only be washed with the following detergents:



**Ultra GAIN**

(Original Fresh Scent Only)

or



**2X Ultra Tide**

(Original, Clean Breeze or Mountain Spring Scents Only)

The Steward at each location is responsible for ordering the correct detergent for FRC clothing at their location from the SONOCO grocery department and keeping the items in stock.



910074 - Liquid Gain Original  
50 oz.

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910080- Liquid Gain HE Original  
100 oz.



910070 - Liquid Tide Original  
50 oz.

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910078- Liquid Tide HE Original  
100 oz.

The labels on the products may change to reflect different holidays or seasons; SONOCO will ensure that the above listed item numbers on both the online and “fax-in” order forms reflect the correct products.

Please order according to the SONOCO Item Code.



The following products must **NEVER** be used on FRC clothing.

- Powder Detergents (any type or style)
- Bleach
- Starch
- Fabric Softener Liquids
- Fabric Softener Sheets



Certain ingredients in them affect the fire retardant properties of the FRC material.

## FRC Laundry Quick Reference

FRC items are always washed **SEPARATELY**

**OK to USE**



**DO NOT USE**



**These should never be used on FRC:**

**Bleach  
Starches  
Powder Detergents  
Fabric Softener  
Fabric Softener Sheets**

This sign is available from the SONOCO safety department or can be printed from the forms section at [www.sontheimeroffshore.com/safety](http://www.sontheimeroffshore.com/safety)

Post it in the laundry on your location as a reference for laundry operations.

If you have any questions regarding FRC Laundry Procedures, please contact the SONOCO Safety Department.