

## 7.4 Protective clothing

### Employees or visitors to production areas

Suitable company-issued protective clothing shall be worn by employees, contractors or visitors working in or entering production areas.

Clause	Requirements
7.4.1	The company shall document and communicate to all employees, contractors or visitors the rules regarding the wearing of protective clothing in specified work areas (e.g. <b>high-care</b> or low-risk areas). This shall also include policies relating to the wearing of protective clothing away from the production environment (e.g. removal before entering toilets, use of canteen and smoking areas).
7.4.2	Protective clothing shall be available that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● is provided in sufficient numbers for each employee</li><li>● is of suitable design to prevent contamination of the product (as a minimum containing no external pockets above the waist or sewn on buttons)</li><li>● fully contains all scalp hair to prevent product contamination</li><li>● includes snoods for beards and moustaches where required to prevent product contamination.</li></ul>
7.4.3	Laundering of protective clothing shall take place by an approved contracted or in-house laundry using defined and verified criteria to validate the effectiveness of the laundering process. Washing of workwear by the employee is exceptional but shall be acceptable where the protective clothing is to protect the employee from the products handled and the clothing is worn in enclosed product or low-risk areas only.
7.4.4	Where protective clothing for <b>high-care or high-risk areas</b> is provided by a contracted laundry, this shall be audited either directly or by a third party, or should have a relevant certification. The laundry must operate procedures which ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● effective cleaning of the protective clothing</li><li>● clothes are commercially sterile following the washing and drying process</li><li>● adequate segregation between dirty and cleaned clothes</li><li>● cleaned clothes are protected from contamination until delivered to the site, e.g. by the use of covers or bags.</li></ul>
7.4.5	If gloves are used, they shall be replaced regularly. Where appropriate, gloves shall be suitable for food use, of a disposable type, of a distinctive colour (blue where possible), be intact and not shed loose fibres.
7.4.6	Where items of personal protective clothing that are not suitable for laundering are provided (such as chain mail, gloves and aprons), these shall be cleaned and sanitised at a frequency based on risk.