

## Chainsaw Protective Clothing (CPC)

Since 1988, Chainsaw Protective Clothing (CPC) has been made to NZS 5840. In 1997 a joint standard was issued, AS/NZS 4453, which was never enforced.

Even though it was based on the European standard EN381, because of some subtle differences, there was no way of testing product to it. Consequently, NZS 5840 has remained and been the benchmark for the performance of CPC until now.

Over the last 2 or 3 years, concerns have developed within the industry as to the **adequacy of NZS 5840**. Approaches were made to European testing laboratories that resulted in an agreement whereby product could be tested to AS/NZS 4453 on EN381 certified test rigs. Very recently, a test rig has been built in New Zealand that is also capable of testing to AS/NZS 4453.

The Department of Labour is keenly interested in the adoption of CPC that is manufactured to this higher specification.

Suppliers have been actively researching and testing fibres and fabrics and the result is ARRESTEX HP – a high performance chainsaw protective fabric. Leg wear manufactured using ARRESTEX HP is now certified to comply with AS/NZS 4453.

What does this mean for you? There will be a staged withdrawal of NZS 5840 but for now, any stock of NZS 5840 certified products will still be able to be sold. The cost of AS/NZS 4453 certified product is significantly higher; however, these garments offer a significantly higher level of protection. The new garments will be available from mid October.