



Our reference:  
Your reference:

FIR/73 301/52/1  
FIR/71 301/54/7  
FIR/76 301/81/1

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The Director General, Greater London Council  
The Chief Executive

21.9.77

Dear Sir

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## FIRE SERVICE CIRCULAR NO 35/1977

- A. WOMEN OFFICERS' UNIFORM
- B. RANK/HELMET IDENTIFICATION
- C. HIGH CONSPICUITY CLOTHING FOR USE AT ROAD ACCIDENTS ETC

1. The Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council has approved recommendations of the Joint Committee on Uniform and Personal Equipment about a modified style of uniform jacket for women officers, the colour of the combs of helmets of assistant divisional officers and station officers and a new high conspicuity surcoat for use by the fire service at road accidents. The details of the recommendations are set out in paragraphs 2 to 5 of this circular.

## WOMEN OFFICERS' UNIFORM

2. To assist in distinguishing between officers and other ranks, the style of uniform jacket for women officers has been changed to include a rounded front, three buttons instead of four, the removal of flaps from the pockets and the use of loose epaulets. The Council considered a further recommendation from the Committee that the lapels should be hand-stitched but because of the possible additional expenditure that would be involved the Council referred the matter back to the Committee for further consideration.

3. Attached at Appendix 1 is a revised specification for the uniform jacket, which the Secretary of State recommends should be adopted by fire authorities as financial resources permit. Also attached at Appendix II is a specification for the jacket for other ranks, which has had the title amended from Jacket - Women (All Ranks) to Jacket - Women (Other Ranks). These specifications supersede those issued with Fire Service Circular No 15/1976 and the specifications will be renumbered C11 for jacket for officers, C12 for jacket other ranks and C13 for skirt all ranks.

## RANK/HELMET IDENTIFICATION

4. After extensive examination of the difficulties that have arisen in distinguishing yellow helmets from white helmets in certain lighting conditions in fire service operations, and the consequent difficulties in identifying rank markings, the Committee recommended to the Council that the problem would be alleviated if the helmet combs for assistant divisional officers and station officers were painted black. The Council agreed to recommend the adoption of this proposal as an interim

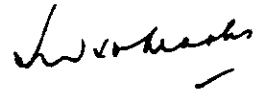
measure only; and referred the matter back to the Committee for further consideration of a solution which would ensure that the necessary visual distinction between ranks could be achieved. In the meantime, the Secretary of State recommends that helmet combs for assistant divisional officers and station officers should be painted black.

#### HIGH CONSPICUITY CLOTHING FOR USE AT ROAD ACCIDENTS ETC

5. Following consideration of a report of the Home Office Police Scientific Development Branch on research into high conspicuity clothing for policemen, the Council agreed the Committee's conclusion that the report's recommendations for a surcoat in saturn yellow with retroreflective tape (which has been adopted for use by the police) should also be adopted for use by the fire service. It is not practicable to circulate the Police Scientific Development Branch report with this circular because of the prohibitive cost of reproducing the coloured illustrations which it contains; but the report's recommendations are set out in the note attached at Appendix III. The Secretary of State recommends that fire authorities should adopt the surcoat for use by the fire service as financial resources permit. The earlier recommendation about conspicuity clothing contained in paragraph 6 of Fire Service Circular No 22/1967 dated 22 May 1967 is cancelled.

6. Additional copies of this circular are enclosed for the information of the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Fire Officer.

Yours faithfully



H V H MARKS

Issued to: Greater London Council and County and Metropolitan County Councils in England and Wales

Copies sent for information to: The Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities

## SPECIFICATION NO. C11

## JACKET – WOMEN OFFICERS

<b>Material</b>	Black lightweight 13/14 oz (405/435g) 35% terylene 65% wool worsted serge.
<b>Style</b>	Single breasted (shaped) button 3 (30 ligne).
<b>Foreparts</b>	Panel to shoulder, with very rounded fronts.
<b>Button Holes</b>	3 right forepart.
<b>Back</b>	Centre back seam with side body into scyes.
<b>Pockets</b>	Jetted side pockets on slant, placed slightly higher than usual. (No flaps).
<b>Collar &amp; Lapels</b>	To be rounded to match fronts. (At point of lapel and collar end).
<b>Edges</b>	Bluff.
<b>Sleeves</b>	2 piece with split cuffs and 2 real button holes.
<b>Lining</b>	Body and sleeves black viscose rayon fast or British Standard 4560: 1970.
<b>Facing</b>	Neck point facing, bottom 1" (2.5 cm) up and bagged.
<b>Shoulder Straps</b>	4" (10 cm) long, maximum width 2½" (6.5 cm) tapering to 1½" (4 cm). Rounded at end and finished with hole and button.
<b>Inlays</b>	Usual side seams and hind arms.
<b>Interlinings</b>	Fused wool with small felt pads.
<b>Stays</b>	Linen.
<b>Seams</b>	Plain.
<b>Hanger</b>	Body lining.
<b>Length</b>	Hip length – according to height.
<b>Marking</b>	Garment to bear cloth identification label.

## SPECIFICATION NO. C12

## JACKET – WOMEN (OTHER RANKS)

<b>Material</b>	Black lightweight 13/14 oz (405/435g) 35% terylene 65% wool worsted serge.
<b>Style</b>	Single breasted (shaped) button 4 (30 ligne).
<b>Foreparts</b>	Panel front to shoulder, square fronts.
<b>Button Holes</b>	4 right forepart.
<b>Back</b>	Centre back seam with side body into scyes.
<b>Pockets</b>	2 straight flaps, hole and button (26 ligne). Pockets silesia, 1½" (4.5 cm), flaps, width 4¾" (12 cm). Inside pocket left forepart 3" (7.5 cm) opening, 5" (12.5 cm) in depth.
<b>Collar</b>	S.B. step, stand 1¼" (3 cm), fall 1½" (4 cm), step 1¼" (3 cm).
<b>Edges</b>	Bluff.
<b>Sleeves</b>	2 piece open cuff, 2 button (26 ligne) holes real.
<b>Lining</b>	Body and sleeves black viscose rayon fast or British Standard 4560:1970.
<b>Facing</b>	Neck point facing, bottom 1" (2.5 cm) up and bagged.
<b>Shoulder Straps</b>	1¼" (3 cm), width 4" (10 cm) length to point of mitre, no button, feld all, round, laid on.
<b>Inlays</b>	Usual side seams and hind arms.
<b>Interlinings</b>	Fused bonded interlinings, white wadding for shoulder padding. T568.
<b>Stays</b>	Linen.
<b>Seams</b>	Plain.
<b>Hanger</b>	Body lining.
<b>Length</b>	Hip length – according to height.
<b>Marking</b>	Garment to bear cloth identification label.

## FIREMENS SURCOAT FOR USE AT ROAD ACCIDENTS

## DESIGN:



## SPECIFICATION FACTORS:-

- i. The area visible should be as large as possible, consistent with comfort. The addition of over-trousers and slip-on sleeves should be considered.
- ii. The majority of the material should be plastic coated fabric. The remainder of the garment (about 20% of the area) should consist of retro-reflective material conforming to BS 5064 as described at (vii) below. The whole garment should conform to BS 3120:1959.
- iii. The colour of the non retro-reflective material should be a saturated yellow from Region 1 of BS 4610 with as high a luminance factor as possible. Region 2 being an acceptable alternative. The specification in BS 4610 should be regarded as defining minimum conspicuity characteristics.
- iv. Colourimetric and luminance measurements should be made on a sample garment to ensure that it has the required characteristics. Colour names do not provide a reliable guide to the colour specification.
- v. The pigment or dye should contain an adequate quantity of a stable fluorescent agent.
- vi. The garment should conform to BS 4610:1970 in respect to colour fastness.
- vii. The retro-reflective material should be visible from the front, back and sides of the body. Alternatively add-on retro-reflective accessories should be worn at night.

**The Fire Service  
College**



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