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Communications

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Quick Tips: Selecting the Proper Cleanroom Apparel

- The task of selecting personal protective equipment (PPE) should be a team decision involving fab managers, validation engineers, contamination control engineers, quality control engineers, industrial hygienists and purchasing.
- The key goal is to limit contamination: anything that is detrimental to yield, productivity, cost and reliability.
- PPE is not rated/approved for a specific class of cleanroom; there are no industry standards.
- Garment fit can be tricky. Find a balance between a generous fit that allows a range of motion and a contoured fit that eliminates extra billowy material, which can cause contamination issues.
- Static dissipative garments and gloves can help control electrostatic discharge (ESD). Surface resistance testing is not appropriate. Instead, evaluate gloves' In-Use Resistance per ANSI ESD TR-03.
- Both vinyl and nitrile gloves are static dissipative. However, nitrile gloves are preferred in cleanroom applications because they contain fewer particles and contaminants.
- Launderable garments may contain "hidden" costs associated with managing distribution and collection. They also may lose functionality due to performance degradation over time.
- PPE should come packaged so that users can extract the PPE from the package and don it without compromising the sterile field. Four layers of packaging allow for optimum transition cleanliness as the garment is moved from controlled areas to more critical areas.

	ISO Class 8	ISO Class 7	ISO Class 6	ISO Class 5	ISO Class 4
Hair Cover	*	*	*	*	*
Hood				*	*
Beard Cover	*	*	*	*	*
Face Mask		*	*	*	*
Frock	*	*			
Coverall			*	*	*
Shoe Cover	*	*	*	*	*
Boots				*	*

For more information on selecting the appropriate cleanroom apparel, visit www.kcprofessional.com.

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