



Oberon Arc Flash Blanket User Guide

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OBERON INTRODUCTION

Oberon is the leading arc flash personal protective equipment (PPE) manufacturer in the world. Located in New Bedford, Massachusetts, USA, Oberon manufactures arc-rated products used for protection from arc flash hazards. As a leader, Oberon provides innovative new shield and fabric technologies. Since manufacturing the first ever arc flash face shield in 1985, Oberon has continued to provide leading edge technologies including its True Color Grey (TCG) technology.

CARE & USE TRAINING

Standards for electrical safety in the workplace including NFPA 70E and CSA Z462 require care and maintenance of arc-rated clothing and arc-rated arc flash suits. Oberon has created this User's Guide to assist with training on care and use of its products.

Requirements include:

- Pre-Use Inspection
- Manufacturer's instructions
- Storage
- Cleaning

REMEMBER

Always ensure the blanket's rating is adequate for the anticipated fault current and predicted clearing time for the work location using the BTP (Break-open Threshold Performance), but not above the maximum rated current of the blanket. Every Oberon arc flash blanket has a front and back. When mounting, look for the label on the front of the blanket that says, **USE This Blanket with THIS SIDE towards the Arc**. The back of the blanket is also labeled and should face away from the potential energy source. It is important to attach **all** the ropes to a secure mounting point to absorb the potential force on the arc.

COMPLIANCE

Oberon arc flash blankets are designed to provide protection from burn injuries resulting from an electrical arc flash. The blankets are compliant with all applicable standards per **NFPA 70E** and **CSA Z462** guidelines. These standards include **ASTM F2676** test methods for determining the arc rating of blankets and **ASTM F1506** performance specifications for textile material for use by electrical workers exposed to momentary electric arc and related thermal hazards.

IMPORTANT WARNING

Flammable contaminants will reduce the thermal performance of any flame resistant arc-rated blanket. Wash blankets to ensure that no greases, oil, soiling or other flammable contaminants are present when the blankets are used. **Do not reuse arc flash blankets after an arc exposure.** Oberon arc flash blankets **do not** provide insulation from electric shock. It is important to note that these blankets will provide only limited protection against pressure and projectiles resulting from an arc flash incident. Oberon arc flash blankets are designed to be used in conjunction with arc flash PPE and should **not** be used as the sole source of protection for the worker. Please refer to ASTM F3272 for more detailed instructions on how to select, care and use arc flash blankets.

INSTRUCTIONS ON STORAGE

- Use a storage bag or storage locker in a clean dry environment. Never store with sharp objects, or in dusty areas.
- To avoid color fading and loss of strength never store under direct sunlight or other UV light sources.
- Fold the blanket before placing in storage.

LAUNDRY INSTRUCTIONS

WASHING PROCEDURES

Arc flash blankets should be washed regularly. Start by spreading the blanket on a flat surface or suspending it open. Hose off with water. Liquid detergents (preferably containing no bleach) for colored textiles can be used. If the blanket is contaminated with oil, grease or a similar type of flammable contaminate the user should attempt to clean the stain. If the stain can not be cleaned then the blanket should be replaced. Ensure that the cleaner is flushed off the blanket and that no residue remains. **Caution: Arc flash blankets should never be put into a washing machine or dryer. They also should never be dry cleaned.**

DETERGENTS: General commercial detergents for colored clothing can be used and proportioned according to the detergent manufacturers' information. Full detergents contain brighteners and are therefore not suitable.

RINSING: After washing, blankets shall be rinsed carefully in order to remove all remains of alkaline and/or possibly flammable residues of the detergent. Up to 2-3 rinsing cycles may be necessary.

DRYING: Hang dry blanket to air dry in a well ventilated area for at least 24 hours before using.

How to Perform a Visual Pre-Inspection of an Oberon Arc Flash Blanket

Blanket Pictured: ARCBKT-40KA

Blanket: Ensure fabric inside/out does not have rips, tears, or holes. Look for stains or other types of damage from contamination. Look for excessive fading of material.

Straps: Inspect for signs of excessive wear or fraying and confirm no visible signs of damage.



Label: Refer to label guidelines to ensure the BTP Rating of the blanket will offer adequate protection for the proposed work task and has been installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.



Grommets: Inspect for signs of excessive wear and confirm no visible signs of damage. Make sure each grommet is firmly in place and secure.





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