# საქართველოს სტანდარტი

დამცავი ტანსაცმელი - ტანსაცმლისათვის რამდენი საგნის კომლექტი და ტანსაცმელი სიცივისაგან დასაცავად

> საქართველოს სტანდარტებისა და მეტროლოგიის ეროვნული სააგენტო თბილისი

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# EUROPEAN STANDARD NORME EUROPÉENNE EUROPÄISCHE NORM

**EN 342** 

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#### **English Version**

# Protective clothing - Ensembles and garments for protection against cold

Vêtements de protection - Ensembles vestimentaires et articles d'habillement de protection contre le froid

Schutzkleidung - Kleidungssysteme und Kleidungsstücke zum Schutz gegen Kälte

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 4 September 2017.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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## **European foreword**

This document (EN 342:2017) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 162 "Protective clothing including hand and arm protection and lifejackets", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2018, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2018.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 342:2004.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directive(s).

For relationship with EU Directive(s), see informative Annexes ZA and ZB, which are an integral part of this document.

Regarding the most significant changes that have been made in this new edition, see Annex A.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

#### Introduction

This document is published to achieve a common basis in Europe for requirements and test methods for protective clothing ensembles and garments against cold in the interest of manufacturers, test institutes and end-users. The measured properties and their subsequent classification are intended to ensure an adequate protection level under different user conditions. Thermal insulation of the ensemble or garment and the air permeability are the essential properties to be tested and marked on the label.

Thermal insulation is the most important property and it is measured by using a full-sized thermal manikin with the ensemble or garment and accompanying standard clothing in order to account for the effect of layers, fit, drape, coverage and shape.

In this respect this standard differs from many other standards specifying only material properties. The insulation is tested with complete ensembles and garments after a defined pretreatment ensuring that processing the garment considers mechanical aspects making tests like flexibility or abrasion unnecessary. It should be recognized that ensembles and garments in frequent use can lose significant insulation capacity due to laundering and wear. In general high quality products and well maintained clothing are less affected in this respect.

Wind can considerably increase convective heat losses. Therefore, the air permeability of the outer garment material is an important factor to be taken into account in relation to the protection of the wearer against cold.

In cold conditions as defined by the standard the possible exposure to water is seldom and considered to be limited, therefore this standard contains only optional requirements to water penetration. In case the exposure to water is not limited, EN 343 applies.

The resultant effective thermal insulation value  $I_{\rm cler}$  can be used to assess temperature ranges according to Tables C.1 and C.2. This guidance information for the selection of the appropriate cold protective garment(s) is one of the benefits, if the resultant effective thermal insulation value  $I_{\rm cler}$  of the garment(s) has been measured on a thermal manikin.

Sweating should be avoided in continuous cold exposure, since moisture absorption will progressively reduce insulation. This is best controlled by selecting optimal rather than maximal insulation and flexible, adjustable garments rather than fixed and closed ensembles. It is more efficient to get rid of heat and moisture by ventilation of clothing through adjustable openings and button-up, than by passive diffusion through layers of garments. In some conditions with intermittent exposures (e.g. cold store work) or in conditions close to and above  $0\,^{\circ}\text{C}$  the water vapour resistance value of fabrics become increasingly important and fabrics with a low value can contribute to improved heat balance and thermal comfort.