CARE & CLEANING GUIDELINES

LEAD APRONS & RADIATION SAFETY APPAREL

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

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PHILLIPS SAFETY
PRODUCTS INC.

RADIATION PROTECTION APPAREL

Maintaining the physical and structural integrity of your radiation protective garments is vital to ensuring long-term shielding performance and patient/staff safety. This guide outlines standard operating procedures for the routine maintenance, sanitation, storage, and inspection of all Phillips Safety core garments (including traditional lead and Axion Core™ lead-free apparel).

These instructions apply to Phillips Safety radiation protection apparel, including lead aprons, vest and skirt combinations, thyroid shields, and other protective garments constructed with traditional lead or lead-free shielding materials, where applicable.

CLEANING & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS

Routine Surface Disinfection: Wipe outer fabrics after each procedure or between patient uses using mild hospital-grade disinfectant wipes (quaternary ammonium, 70% isopropyl alcohol, or hydrogen peroxide-based wipes).

MANUAL WASHING METHOD

1

Dampen a soft cloth or sponge with a lukewarm solution of water and mild neutral detergent or certified x-ray apron cleaner.

2

Gently wipe the exterior and interior nylon, ripstop, or EasyClean PVC surfaces.

3

Wipe thoroughly with a clean, water-dampened cloth to remove all soap residue.

Spot Treatment: For stubborn biological stains, gently clean the affected spot using a soft-bristled brush with mild detergent. Test cleaning solutions on an inconspicuous area first to verify colorfastness.

PROHIBITED CLEANING PRACTICES

- **Never submerge or soak:** Protective core materials are not water-resistant; immersion will cause core degradation, clumping, and internal seam failure.
- **No harsh solvents:** Do not use chlorine bleach, ammonia, petroleum-based solvents, or abrasive scouring pads.
- **No laundering:** Do not machine wash, dry clean, autoclave, or steam sterilize.
- **Drying procedure:** Hang garments on heavy-duty apron hangers in a well-ventilated area. Ensure garments are completely air-dried before returning to active clinical storage. Do not apply direct heat or place in mechanical dryers.

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STORAGE AND HANDLING

Proper storage prevents mechanical stress, cracking, and thinning of the internal attenuation layers.

- **Hanging storage:** Always hang aprons by the shoulders on dedicated, heavy-duty lead apron hangers or swing-arm peg/rail racks. Ensure weight is evenly distributed across the hanger.
- **Prevent creasing:** Do not fold, crumple, or stack aprons in bins, drawers, or on flat surfaces. Never sit, kneel, or lean heavily on protective apparel while wearing it.
- **Transit and transport:** When moving apparel between clinical sites, roll the apron loosely around a storage tube or flat surface. Never fold the garment into a bag or suitcase.
- **Environmental controls:** Store garments in a clean, temperature-controlled environment away from direct sunlight, open UV sources, radiators, and extreme temperature swings.

INSPECTION & QUALITY ASSURANCE

- **Visual & tactile checks:** Routinely inspect outer fabric, seams, buckles, and velcro closures for fraying, tears, or stretching. Manually feel along the apron body for lumps, thinning spots, sagging, or internal cracks.
- **Annual radiographic/fluoroscopic audits:** Conduct annual radiographic screening (per Joint Commission and state radiation safety guidelines) to verify lead equivalency and check for invisible internal fractures.
- **Retirement criteria:** Garments showing breaches exceeding institutional radiation control thresholds, structural delamination, or torn core materials must be removed from clinical service immediately.

DISPOSAL

Dispose of worn, damaged, or retired garments in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal requirements, including rules governing lead-containing materials. Do not place lead-containing garments in ordinary waste unless specifically permitted by applicable regulations.

WARRANTY

Phillips Safety radiation apparel is covered by a two-year warranty against manufacturing defects. Normal wear and damage from overloading or improper use are not covered.

For warranty assistance, contact Phillips Safety with your order information and a description of the issue. Do not attempt unauthorized repairs.

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