



UL Helps Fire Service Provider Meet Upgraded Requirements

The challenge

Ontario, Canada-based Sani Gear looks out for the fire service. As a family-owned independent service provider (ISP), they strive to bring the highest quality maintenance service to the fire industry in Canada in caring for firefighter turn out gear. For many years, Sani Gear tested to meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1851, but found they needed assistance to meet the upgraded testing requirements for 2020. That's when Sani Gear president Inge Pudelek turned to UL.

UL's response

Firefighter gear must work every time, and soiled gear can be a health hazard for first responders. Prior to NFPA's upgraded requirements, no defined way measured whether the independent service providers were appropriately cleaning firefighter gear. The new requirements provide a way to measure the state of cleaning today, in order to learn where to go tomorrow. Pudelek believes that wash efficacy testing, though expensive, is important to put all ISPs on a level playing field.

Sani Gear was in the process of opening a second location, making success more crucial. "Staying in the game is the only option," Pudelek said. "We are committed to the business, the industry and cleaning efficacy." After twice failing the biohazard portion of the NFPA wash efficacy testing, Pudelek reached out for help. Sani Gear and UL partnered to research potential solutions, mirroring the conditions in Sani Gear's laboratory to make sure that the company could fabricate formulations on-site. Through preliminary testing activities with UL, Sani Gear was able to send formulations for pre-testing with a 24-hour turnaround. The resulting test data from UL's laboratory helped to ensure Sani Gear had the information necessary to develop a proper formulation to achieve the intended results.



CASE STUDY



Results

With increased confidence, Pudelek scheduled a third wash efficacy test and met NFPA requirements, improving the chances for its second plant to succeed when opened. “UL’s testing and guidance was essential to help us achieve our business goals,” Pudelek said.

A strong capacity to test to the NFPA 1851 new requirements allows UL to address cleaning, testing and verification efforts within its own facilities, providing a quicker and more streamlined service to customers. Supporting cleaning service providers is part of UL’s long legacy of helping the fire service improve health and safety.

That legacy of trust matters. Pudelek agreed, saying “We’re not going to sell a line without believing in it. We need proof before we pitch to our customers.” Thanks to that trust, UL and Sani Gear were able to work together as a team to adapt processes and achieve success when it mattered most.

To discover more about UL’s testing services for Independent Service Providers, visit [UL.com/NFPA1851](https://www.ul.com/NFPA1851).



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