

Case Studies

SKELLERUP Footwear Structural Fire Fighting Boots - protecting the protectors



George Skjellerup, a Danish Australian, opened his first retail store in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1910, selling tyres and rubber goods for the dairy industry. It is from this legacy that Skellerup have come to know what it takes to build a boot capable of performing in the most demanding situations - especially for providing protective footwear for fire fighters.

The challenges of modern fire fighting and chemical hazard management place enormous demands on fire fighters. Treacherous under foot conditions, high temperatures, and lethal corrosives are part of their every day work environment.

"Naturally, in high risk circumstances products need to deliver the required level of safety performance, therefore the need for certification and compliance processes is even more critical and every step of the process needs to be watched closely" says Paul Randall, Divisional Manager, Skellerup Footwear.

Skellerup structural fire fighting boots are designed with this in mind – delivering independently-assured safety and performance in even the most extreme situations.

Paul Randall emphasises that "product quality at Skellerup is about providing a consistent and compliant product that performs to the requirements the end user. That is true for all of our handmade products, whether safety is a factor or not, but the requirements are especially tough for professional fire fighting boots".



As Paul Randall explains, "the key to gaining access into this market is certification to the Protective Footwear Standard, AS/NZS 4821".

This standard is one of the most rigorous and demanding fire fighter footwear standards to attain when compared with other internationally recognised standards.

Skellerup structural fire fighting boots must, pass very critical requirements such as:

- Survive conductive heat resistance @ 250⁰ C for 4 mins
- Survive radiant heat resistance @ 2W/cm² for 4 mins
- Survive flame resistance for 15 secs
- Provide insulation properties @ 150⁰ C for 4 mins
- Provide outer sole resistance to hot contact @ 300⁰ C for 60secs
- Ensure protection via a Steel Toe Cap that can withstand a 200 Joule impact

The manufacturing process used to construct Skellerup professional fire fighting boots is independently audited by SAI Global and products are also independently tested to comply with the Protective footwear for fire fighters AS/NZS 4821 Standard. Only those boots that all of the compliance requirements will get the 5 ticks mark.



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“Skellerup is a well known, iconic brand that emphasises the qualities of handmade, tough, protective footwear. We are confident that these qualities will continue to be relevant and satisfy the needs of our customers into the future as they have for the last 68 years” says Paul Randall.



“Our customers are well aware of the “Tick Tower” and most of them place a very high importance on it. Obviously, certification has a marketing benefit in those sections of the workplace where safety is paramount and we are happy to demonstrate our compliance. Skellerup also benefits from the international credibility inherent within the AS/NZ Standard by Australia’s near neighbours in the Asia Pacific. We have always had a great deal of support from SAI Global throughout to obtain product certification”.

Kevin King is SAI Global Program Manager for PPE. His role involves auditing and certifying Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) products. “The Five Ticks StandardsMark is a definite advantage to our customers” explains Mr King.

Use of products that have been independently shown to meet the Australian Standard – known as certified products – also form part of the recommendation of many industry specific guidelines and codes of practice. Some of the major bodies – in fire protection, for example,



stipulate that their members use only AS certified products.

Standards provide technical and design guidance which, in this context, is directly relevant to health and safety products and other elements of the working environment.

Product Certification

SAI Global audits a full suite of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against Australian/New Zealand and international product standards.

For more details please visit SAI Global Product Database via www.StandardsMark.com.



To find out how to obtain certification of your products please email product@saiglobal.com

