DuPont™ recommends that uncontaminated Tychem® brand garments more than five years old be used for training. Under proper storage conditions, there is no evidence to indicate that Tychem® fabrics lose their protective characteristics or physical properties in five years. This observation is based on testing of “naturally aged” Tychem® fabrics for more than ten years.

To project shelf life durability, Tychem® fabrics were exposed to an accelerated thermal and oxidative atmosphere in a pressurized vessel. The testing was conducted in a manner similar to that described in test method ASTM 573-88; the exceptions to the method were a higher temperature (100°C vs. 70°C) and pressure (300 psi vs. 100 psi) than specified. The results of these accelerated aging tests have been compared to the physical properties of fabrics retained for more than 10 years. Based on the results of the accelerated aging test, the projected shelf life of Tychem® materials is more than five years, as long as the material is not stored in sunlight or in excessive heat (>40°C). However other materials used in chemical protective garments, such as gloves, closures, zippers, face shields, and flaps in exhaust valves are often made of materials for which there is no comparable shelf life information and therefore, may have shorter shelf storage times than the Tychem® brand materials.

DuPont™ Tychem® garments contain other components for which there is no storage life data. The garments may therefore be used as long as they are deemed safe after a visual inspection, and, in the case of vapor protective (Level A) garments, after passing the ASTM F 1 052 Standard Test Method for Pressure Testing Vapor Protective Ensembles.

Among the items to consider in a visual inspection are odors, discoloration, cracks, delamination, stiffness, holes, punctures, rips, tears, or any other indication of fabrics, seam or garment damage that would diminish the integrity and protectiveness of the garment. It is suggested that downgrading the suit to “Training Use Only” be considered when the suit no longer passes the visual inspection and/or pressure test. A suit that is suspected or known to be contaminated should be discarded and not reused. Discarded suits should be mutilated in a manner that prevents reuse, such as cutting off a sleeve, leg or cutting the suit into several pieces.
WARNINGS:

1.) Garments of Tychem® are not flame resistant and should not be used around heat, flame, sparks, or in potentially flammable or explosive environments.

2.) Garments of Tychem® should have slip resistant or antislip materials on the outer surface of boots, shoecovers, or other garment surfaces where a concern about slippage exists.

This information is based upon technical data that DuPont believes to be reliable. It is subject to revision as additional knowledge and experience are gained. DuPont makes no guarantee of results and assumes no obligation or liability in connection with this information.

It is the user’s responsibility to determine the level of toxicity and the proper personal protective equipment needed. The information set forth herein reflects laboratory performance of fabrics, not complete garments, under controlled conditions. It is intended for use by persons having technical skill for evaluation under their specific end-use conditions, at their own discretion and risk.

Anyone intending to use this information should first verify that the garment selected is suitable for the intended use. In many cases, seams and closures have shorter breakthrough times and higher permeation rates than the fabric. If fabric becomes torn, abraded or punctured, end user should discontinue use of garment to avoid potential exposure to chemical. SINCE CONDITIONS OF USE ARE OUTSIDE OUR CONTROL, WE MAKE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, NO WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR USE AND ASSUME NO LIABILITY WHATSOEVER IN CONNECTION WITH ANY USE OF THIS INFORMATION.

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