

## What's the lifetime of textile products?

Many people are confused about why a specific lifetime is given to a product and where this information comes from.

The lifetime of a product is not specified in any regulations, it is up to the manufacturer to determine the lifetime.

The regulations that govern CE marking 'The Personal Protective Equipment (EC Directive) Regulations 1992' state that if a product is subject to ageing the manufacturer must provide the 'obsolescence deadline' of the product and information 'to enable the user to establish a reasonable obsolescence date'.

## heightec products

We recommend that the combined periods of storage and use of heightec textile products should not exceed ten years from the date of manufacture.

This is the maximum life of items which have occasional, sporadic use and have been stored for long periods.

Not all equipment will remain in a useable state for this length of time. In extreme conditions the life of a product may be limited to a single use.

Please see the following estimates of lifetime depending on type of use:

- 0 – 0.5 year extreme use
- 0.5 – 1.5 years heavy use
- 1.5 – 3 years typical regular use
- 3 – 5 years light use
- 5 – 10 years occasional / intermittent use

The time to retire a product should always be determined by a competent inspector as part of a regular schedule of inspection.

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