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## National Fire and Aviation Executive Board

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June 20, 2005

Memorandum

To: All Firefighters

From: National Fire and Aviation Executive Board

Subject: PPE Standards for Footwear

Within the last 12 months there has been a continuing email discussion about the suitability of a non-traditional style of boot for firefighting. Specifically, the discussion has centered around two models of boot, the Glacier Boot and the Latok, both made by La Sportiva.

None of our agencies is in the business of approving or disapproving specific makes and models of boots for firefighting. PPE standards are published in agency policy, and the suitability of any boot is only measured by its ability to meet these standards.

Because so many differing opinions are currently being circulated regarding the La Sportiva boots, members of the Federal Fire and Aviation Safety Team (FFAST) spoke with the manufacturer on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. The manufacturer confirmed the following points:

- The dark brown material used to construct the ankle collars and the tongues is made from “glove grade” leather.
- The smaller sized men’s boots and the women’s boots are not 8” tall (as measured from the floor to the top of the boot).

The determination is that some, but not all of these models of La Sportiva boots meet the PPE standards described on page 06-7 in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, 2005, and the BIA Blue Book. However, it is incumbent upon each supervisor to insure the footwear being worn by their subordinates meet their specific agency standard.