

INSULATING RUBBER BLANKET

DESCRIPTION, MAINTENANCE, AND INSPECTION

1. GENERAL

1.01 The care, maintenance, and inspection of the insulating rubber blanket are described in this section.

1.02 This section is reissued to delete reference to the KS-16302 cleaner which has been superseded by the B cleaning fluid (AT-8236).

1.03 Insulating blankets are for use as a temporary insulating wrapping on poles which may come in contact with power lines during construction work. The blanket is also for use as an insulating mat on which a workman must stand while operating external derrick controls for a derrick being used in the vicinity of power lines. The use of insulating blankets is described in Section 621-205-010.

1.04 The insulating qualities of blankets are reduced when they become wet. For this reason, insulating blankets shall not be used during periods of rain or to cover pockets of water on the ground.

1.05 The insulating blanket is not a substitute for insulating gloves. *Insulating gloves shall always be worn in conjunction with the use of the blanket.*

1.06 When using an insulating blanket as a mat, care must be taken not to place it directly on sharp gravel, glass, or other sharp objects which will cause cuts. Either sweep the area to remove such objects or place boards to protect the blanket.

2. DESCRIPTION

2.01 The insulating rubber blanket is made of rubber, in black, flat, flexible sheets containing neither beaded edges nor eyelets. The blanket is approximately 36 inches square, 1/10 inch thick, and weighs approximately 7 pounds. The electrical, weather, and chemical resistance properties of this blanket are very good.

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2.02 A blanket canister is provided to store the blankets. The canister will accommodate four rolled blankets. In order to protect the blankets from contact with sharp or pointed tools and other damaging agents, it is essential that they be stored in the canister.

2.03 If more than one blanket is to be stored in a canister, roll up one blanket and place it in the canister. Additional blankets can then be rolled and inserted, one at a time, inside the blanket previously placed in the canister.

2.04 Each blanket is marked with a "Return for Test" date (rubber stamp imprint). These blankets shall be returned to the Western Electric Company or other authorized agent prior to the "Return for Test" date, and a replacement blanket shall be made available.

3. INSPECTION

3.01 Insulating rubber blankets shall be inspected visually for cracks, cuts, tears, or other mechanical damage each time before being used, in the following manner:

- (1) Check the "Return for Test" date (rubber stamp imprint) of the next periodic electrical test to determine that the specified date has not been passed. *Outdated blankets shall not be used.*
- (2) Place the blanket on a clean, flat surface and roll it up tightly, beginning at one corner. As it is being rolled up, observe the rolled surface for cracks or other defects.
- (3) Unroll the blanket and repeat operation (2), rolling the blanket at right angles to the original direction of rolling.
- (4) Inspect the reverse side of the blanket by unrolling it, turning it over and repeating operations (2) and (3).

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3.02 Insulating rubber blankets that have punctures, holes, cuts, scratches, or cracks deeper than 1/2 the thickness of the blanket in any place but the edges shall be removed from service.

3.03 Blankets shall be returned for periodic electrical tests as indicated by the marking on each blanket. They should be returned in rolls (3-1/2 inches in diameter) that are properly wrapped to avoid damage.

4. MAINTENANCE

4.01 Upon completion of a pole placing job, the insulating blankets that have been used shall be cleaned, if necessary, and stored in canisters. Mud or dirt should be washed off with water. Creosote or wet paint should be wiped off as thoroughly as possible with a dry cloth; any remaining paint or creosote should be removed with a cloth moistened with KS-14356 cleaner (dry cleaning fluid), KS-7860 petroleum spirits, or B cleaning fluid. Do not use an excessive amount of the cleaning agent and do not wipe over "Return for Test" date. ***This cleaning shall be done in a well-ventilated location away from open flame or other sources of ignition, as these materials are either flammable or their vapors constitute***

a health hazard. As soon as the blanket has been cleaned, it should be wiped thoroughly dry with a dry, clean cloth. Do not use gasoline. Gasoline has a very low flash point and hence its use presents a much more serious fire hazard than does the use of the cleaning fluid or petroleum spirits which have a much higher flash point. The B cleaning fluid is nonexplosive. All imbedded material such as dirt, wood splinters, etc, shall be removed. Blankets shall be thoroughly dry before being rolled and stored.

4.02 An insulating rubber blanket which has been found to have a cut, tear, or puncture at one edge should be treated in the following manner:

- (1) Place the blanket on flat surface. Draw a straight line across the blanket approximately 1/4 inch from the rupture and parallel to the edge which will result in the least loss of blanket material in removing the damaged portion.
- (2) Measure from this line the length of the remaining blanket. If less than 29 inches, the blanket shall be replaced. If 29 inches or more, use a pair of shears to cut along the line, using care to obtain a straight, smooth edge.