

Tech Talk: Nomex Underwear



Tech Layer Talk

December 13, 2018

Categories: [Tech & Product Info](#)

CMS Presents: Tech Talk Nomex Underwear & Why It's Important

"It's too hot," is the most common refrain associated with Nomex underwear that I've heard in my years of serving the auto racing industry. As they say, "The devil is in the details," and the truth is that Nomex underwear will actually keep you *cooler* when wearing it. This holds true for Nomex [balaclavas](#), [shirts](#), [pants](#) and [socks](#).

The road racing wearable products industry, as you will no doubt be shocked to learn, revolves around keeping professional drivers safe and comfortable. As a result, manufacturers are always scrambling to find the next big breakthrough that will bring more drivers, and thus more brand awareness, to their company. It really is as simple as economics. Any driver who finds their gear uncomfortable isn't likely to wear it for long, as they weigh every detail of their performance with laser-like precision. They know that distraction creates inefficiency, and inefficiency can be the difference between a clean lap and a trip back to the paddock on a pit bike with the car on a hook following behind.

Ask yourself, "Why do all professional drivers wear Nomex underwear?" You may be surprised to know that it's not simply because it's a requirement.

The answer is that tech layers are made to wick moisture away from the skin which in turn cools the driver. The inner liner of a Nomex fire suit isn't intended for this and doesn't function in the same way because a racing fire suit is *intended* to be worn with Nomex underwear beneath it. It may seem counter-intuitive but we promise it's *SCIENCE!*

Finally, and this cannot be overstated, wearing an additional layer of [Nomex underwear](#) provides the driver precious seconds for egress when things go terribly wrong. A great many racers, some of whom we know personally, fell into the trap of thinking, "That will never happen to me," right up until it did. Auto racing comes with inherent risks, but outfitting yourself properly can help to mitigate many of those risks significantly.

With that in mind, below are a few different lines of Nomex Underwear we carry here at CMS, along with our thoughts on each, in no particular order:

[Adidas Motorsport Climacool and Techfit Series:](#)

Relative to the AStars Race V2 and Sparco Delta, the [Climacool](#) is Adidas Motorsport's entry-level range to Nomex underwear. While the styling may not look as sleek in the images as its competitors, this series is no less comfortable and offers the same features for a competitive price. The upper end of the Adidas range brings us to the [Techfit](#) series which is lighter, thinner and more breathable than the Climacool series. For a modest price increase over the Climacool series, the Techfit delivers the best that Adidas has to offer in Nomex underwear without breaking the bank.



[Alpinestars Race V2 and ZX EVO Series:](#)

Both of these series are an update to a previous generation of products, and both saw marked improvements over the predecessors. The [Race V2](#) is less expensive than the ZX EVO series while still providing exceptional breathability and overall comfort. The [ZX EVO](#) series has a ton of stretch panels and, while one of the more expensive lines of Nomex underwear, feels

like wearing a stretchy tissue (really, it's that soft). The styling also makes the ZX EVO series really stand out in a positive way, but your mileage may vary.

Alpinestars also has both [basic and advanced](#) socks which are worth a look.



[Sparco Delta and Shield Series:](#)

Sparco offers the [Delta](#) and [Shield](#) series in both a long- and short-sleeved version. Note that the short-sleeved versions are not rated for either FIA or SFI, so if your series requires it you'll want to skip the short-sleeved shirts. While the Delta carries a slightly higher price point than the AStars Race V2, these 2 series share a lot of similarities including comfort, thickness and softness. The Shield series from Sparco is incredibly soft and breathable and has no visible graphics like the AStars ZX EVO but it's no less comfortable, feeling like an ultra-soft chamois cloth. We highly recommend it.

And don't forget Sparco's [amazing assortment of socks!](#)



Sincerely,

Maelstrom @ CMS