



## Formula 1 Drivers' Suits...Care and Safety Testing with Molecule Labs

*Caretaker of half the Nomex suits used in F1 looks to Molecule Labs for advanced cleaning and fire protection solutions*



HondaF1's fire suits are one of many teams that entrust the care and maintenance to the David Charles Group. The DCG organization is currently testing the full range of products from Molecule Labs. (Photo: Molecule)

May 8, 2007

Didcot, England

Michael Guasch, president of Molecule Labs recently visited The David Charles Group, the company responsible for servicing and maintaining the Nomex fire suits for approximately half of the Formula One teams and drivers. With each F1 team comprised of dozens of fire suit wearing pit crew, team principals, support staff, and the race drivers themselves, The David Charles Group is charged with using the finest chemicals to treat the 100+ F1 suits in their care. "From the drivers' suits to the pit crew members, we clean them all," noted David Charles.

Because these fire suits used by the teams serve as billboards for the billion dollar F1 industry, the measures to clean the suits used by different team members will vary. "The drivers have different suit care needs than the re-fuelers and mechanics. We always wash the drivers' suits because they're very picky about the feel and smell of their suits. Washing will always get them cleaner and fresher than dry cleaning.

"We'd previously dry cleaned the crew suits because they get so dirty with grease, oil, and fuel, but we wanted to find a better solution to deliver them to our customers looking and smelling fresher.

"When we found out about Molecule we immediately contacted and invited them to our plant to review our cleaning procedures and cleaning chemicals; using the very best products is our commitment and dedication. We're also trying to become more environmentally correct by reducing the use of the carcinogenic, ozone depleting solvents used in dry cleaning."

"Our technology cleans Nomex much better than dry cleaning," said Molecule's Guasch. "Dry cleaning does well in removing the motor oils and other racing contaminants, but does a poor job of eliminating the sweat, body oils, and dirt as well as our new chemistry that utilizes traditional washing machines."

"We're also very interested in Molecule Protector™; we've been testing it and have seen great results," said Charles. With the chemically-engineered Molecule Protector™ formula, a spray-on application of the product reduces the ability for flammable liquids to penetrate a Nomex suit by a staggering 75% to 85%. Without Molecule Protector™, suits can become the source of their own fuel soaked fires. This safety precaution isn't lost on Charles.

"We hope to get all the F1 suits treated soon. We currently have it on a few BTCC and GT3 European Championship drivers' suits and they really like the peace of mind it provides."

###