

Selecting PPE

Teach Your Employees How To Be Safe Every Day

OSHA requires the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce employees' exposures to hazards when engineering and administrative controls are not feasible or effective in reducing hazard exposures to acceptable levels.

Training

All Employees who are required to use PPE must be trained to know at least the following:

- When PPE is necessary
- What PPE is necessary
- How to properly don, remove, adjust, and wear PPE
- The limitations of the PPE
- The proper care, maintenance, useful life and disposal of the PPE

Eye and face protection is required if there is exposure to hazards from flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors, or potentially injurious light radiation.

Head protection is designed to provide protection from impact and penetration hazards caused by falling objects. Head protection is also available which provides protection from electric shock and burn.

Protective footwear is needed when working in areas where there is a danger of injuries due to falling or rolling objects, or objects piercing the sole, and where employee's feet are exposed to electrical hazards.

Hand protection is required when there are hazards such as those from skin absorption of harmful substances; severe cuts or lacerations; severe abrasions; punctures; chemical burns; thermal burns; and harmful temperature extremes.

Controlling hazards

PPE devices alone should not be relied on to provide protection against hazards, but should be used in conjunction with guards, engineering controls, and sound manufacturing practices.

Selection guidelines

The general procedure for selection of protective equipment is to become familiar with the potential hazards and the type of protective equipment that is available, and what it can do.

Compare the hazards associated with the environment, such as impact velocities, chemical hazards, noise levels and temperatures with the capabilities of the available protective equipment.

Select the protective equipment that ensures a level of protection greater than the minimum required to protect employees from the hazards.

Fit the user with the protective device and give instructions on care and use of the PPE. It is very important that end users be made aware of all warning labels for and limitations of their PPE.