

Workers who may be exposed to potentially harmful chemicals and other hazards need to take every precaution to ensure that they are adequately protected at all times. Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be provided to employees and used by them whenever it can protect an employee from a hazard or a potential illness or injury. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has required the use of PPE for eye, face, respiratory and hand protection; occupational head and foot protection; and electrical protective devices. Selection of the proper PPE for a job is important. Employees must understand the equipment's purposes and limitations. The equipment cannot be altered or removed when it has been determined to be necessary to protect workers from hazardous conditions.

Circumstances in which PPE may be required to be worn include:



Head protection in the form of a safety helmet shall be worn where, there is a possibility that a person may be struck on the head by a falling object, a person may strike his/her head against a fixed object, or there may be inadvertent head contact with electrical hazards.

Eye protection shall be provided where a risk of eye injury exists. Typical hazards might include flying particles, dust, splashing substances, harmful gases, vapors, aerosols, and high intensity radiation from welding operations.

Hearing protection shall be provided where a risk of noise induced hearing loss exists. The need for hearing protection shall be assessed from the conduct of noise surveys in potential noise hazard areas.

Respiratory protection shall be provided, after all other practicable measures have been taken to provide control measures, to ensure that no staff member is exposed to an atmosphere that is or may be injurious to health.

Protective clothing and sunscreen shall be provided for staff who are required to work outdoors and are exposed to the sun's rays for continuous periods in a day. Direct exposure of the skin to UV radiation from outdoor work shall be minimized by providing hats, long sleeves/trousers and an adequate supply of sunscreen.

Hand protection shall be provided where there is an identified hazard associated with a potential for hand injury. Anyone in the cleaning field should wear protective gloves when their hands are in danger of becoming injured. Chemical-protective gloves should be worn when working with chemicals which could be absorbed through (or could damage) exposed skin. Also, canvas leather or cotton gloves are recommended for general maintenance work and handling of materials that could cut, splinter or otherwise damage hands.

Protective footwear (safety footwear) shall be provided where the nature of the work exposes the employee to a medium to high risk of injury to feet, e.g. occupations such as workshop/maintenance, central receiving and landscaping staff.

Employees working in areas where there are potential electrical hazards shall be provided with, and shall use, electrical protective equipment that is appropriate for the specific parts of the body to be protected and work to be performed.

High visibility safety vests shall be provided and worn where there is a risk of injury associated with working on or near roadways or near moving traffic or moving plant.

Compliance with requirements to use PPE by individual(s), including staff, students, contractors and visitors should be monitored.