

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

What is PPE:

PPE is the safety equipment to be utilized and worn by the employee when performing their job to protect them from the various hazards in the workplace.

Potential Risk/Hazard:

Employees could be injured by the various jobs that they perform if they do not utilize the proper personal protective equipment (PPE).

How to Minimize the Risk/Hazard:

Prior to providing PPE, the employer shall use engineering and administrative controls to eliminate or minimize the hazards. Then, provide PPE and training as necessary to protect employees.

Key Requirements for Compliance:

1. **Designate**
 - Assign a PPE Director.
2. **Inspection**
 - Conduct an initial inspection of all jobs in the workplace and determine what type of PPE is necessary to perform that job safely.
3. **Plan**
 - Prepare and maintain a PPE Safety Plan.
4. **Equipment**
 - Provide employees with the proper PPE to safely perform their job duties.
 - Insure that PPE is inspected and properly maintained prior to use.
5. **Training**
 - Provide employees with PPE training prior to initial assignment.
 - Provide employees with periodic refresher training or training on any new PPE.
6. **Respiratory Program**
 - Employees that are in the Respiratory Program, must have an annual medical valuation and be fit tested to wear a respirator.
 - Issue Appendix D of the Respiratory Program to all employees that voluntarily wear respirators.

Various Types of PPE is Utilized to Protect Employees:

1. **Hand Protection**
 - Gloves: bio./chem. hazard-latex, vinyl, nitrile, rubber; general-leather, cotton; sharp objects-metal mesh; heat/cold-insulated.
2. **Eye Protection**
 - Impact resistant glasses; chemical resistant goggles.
3. **Face Protection**
 - Impact resistant face-shield; radiant energy resistant welding mask.
4. **Foot Protection**
 - Steel-toed boots; metatarsal guards; non-conductive boots; chemical resistant boots; static discharging boots.
5. **Body Protection**
 - Heat/cold-insulated coveralls; dusts/fibers-paper suit; chemicals-tyvek suit; radiation resistant suit.
6. **Respiratory Protection**
 - N95 respirator (dustmask); ½-face respirator; full-face respirator; powered air purifying respirator; supplied air; self-contained.
7. **Fall Protection**
 - Lanyard; harness; lifeline, tie-off; scaffold; lifts.
8. **Contact**
 - Contact EMC for further assistance, information or with any questions.