

YOUR COMPANY NAME

Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment

Introduction

The Company is required by Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act to provide a safe place of work. The provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) may assist the Company in attaining this requirement.

Under Section 7 of the same Act, employees are required to co-operate with the Company and to look after their own health and safety. It is, therefore, a legal requirement that the employee uses the protective equipment provided by the Company.

The need to utilize PPE will become apparent as part of the risk assessment process. Where a risk assessment defines the need for PPE, this Company will ensure that the PPE is suitable for the task, suitable for the operative to wear, is properly maintained and that the operative is properly trained to use it.

PPE is to be used as the last resort; all other practicable risk control measures are to be taken first.

It should be noted that, although the Company is not obliged to provide them with the protective equipment, the self employed and trade-contractors are also required to wear the equipment where and when designated.

Hard Hats

These must be worn where there is a risk of injury either from falling materials or from striking the head against projections. The only exception is in the case of Sikhs, whilst wearing turbans. It should be noted that, in this case, the Company's liability for injuries is reduced. Hard hats shall comply with BS EN 397.

Ear Defenders

Hearing protection is to be worn whilst carrying out all noisy operations or in noisy areas. Selected equipment should comply with the specification in BS EN 352. For further guidance, reference "Noise Assessment" under Arrangements Section B.

Eye Protection

To be used wherever there is a risk of contamination from chemicals, either by vapour or splashing, or risk from dust or any danger from flying particles. All eye protection shall comply with BS EN 166 except in the case of lens filters for welding, which shall comply with BS EN 169.

Respiratory Protection

Specialist operations - these will be covered in separate sections of the manual if tasks requiring respiratory protection are carried out. Operations giving rise to nuisance dust - disposable dust masks shall be provided and are to be used.

Hand Protection

Gloves shall be provided for the handling of things which may be sharp, rough, hot, cold, contaminated with either chemical or biological agents or liable to cause a hazard by breaking in the hand, e.g. glass. Barrier creams shall be provided for use when dealing with mildly irritant substances.

Foot Protection

Safety footwear is to be worn in all areas where there is a risk of injury to the feet from either materials or equipment crushing the feet, or from materials penetrating the soles of the feet. In this circumstance steel toecaps and mid-soles to BS EN 346 will be the requirement. In addition, if there is the risk of penetration by chemicals or water the footwear should be able to withstand that.

High-Visibility Clothing

This is made from PVC impregnated with fluorescent pigments. It MUST be worn by anyone working on or near the roadside; also by anyone else working in areas where it is important to be seen to be safe, e.g. banksmen, or when there is moving plant and poor visibility. All high-visibility clothing shall comply with BS EN 471; the flame retardant version shall meet BS EN 469.

Safety Harnesses

Harnesses should be used only if the use of other, safer work equipment is not reasonably practicable, the work can be performed safely while using a harness as a personal fall protection system, and both the user and a sufficient number of available people have received adequate training specific to the planned operation, including rescue procedures.

When in use, harnesses must always be secured to a safe anchorage.

Harnesses are to be stored in a cool, dry and well-ventilated place away from direct sunlight and away from any materials that are likely to cause them damage.

All harnesses are to be examined by a competent person every three months and a record kept of the examination.

PPE REGISTER

When PPE is issued to an individual, it is to be recorded.

PPE EUROPEAN STANDARD COMPLIENCE

ITEM	TYPE	STANDARD	COMMENT		
Eye Protection	General purpose	BS EN 166S	Recommended for construction		
	Impact grade 1	BS EN 166B			
	Impact grade 2	BS EN 166F			
	Chemical goggles	BS EN 166-3			
	Dust goggles	BS EN 166-4			
	Lens filters for welding	BS EN 169			
Hearing Protection	All types	BS EN 352	Protection must also match the attenuation of the sound source		
Foot protection	General purpose safety	BS EN 345	Includes steel mid-sole		
	General purpose protective	BS EN 346			
	Chainsaw use				
Hand Protection	General purpose industrial gloves	BS 1651			
	Rubber gloves for electrical purposes	BS EN 60903			
	Chemical resistant gloves	BS EN 464			
	Protective gloves for chainsaw users	BS EN 381			
	Heat resistant for welders/burners	BS 2653			
Protective Clothing	General clothing	BS EN 340			
	Hi Visibility clothing	BS EN 471			
	Protective clothing for chainsaw users	BS EN 381			
	Protective clothing for welders	BS 2653			
	Personal buoyancy equipment	BS EN 384			
Head Protection	Industrial hard hats - heavy duty	BS EN 397			
Respiratory Protective Equipment	Full face masks	BS EN 136	For use in abrasive blasting operations		
	Self contained open circuit compressed air breathing apparatus	BS EN 137			
	Fresh air hose breathing apparatus	BS EN 138			
	Compressed air line breathing apparatus	BS EN 139			
	Half masks and quarter masks	BS EN 140			
	Gas filters and combined filters	BS EN 141			
	Particle filters	BS EN 143			
	Self contained closed circuit breathing apparatus	BS EN 145			
	Power assisted filtering devices incorporating helmets or hoods	BS EN 146			
	Power assisted filtering devices incorporating full face half or quarter masks	BS EN 147			
	Filtering half masks against particles	BS EN 149			
	Power assisted fresh air hose breathing apparatus incorporating a hood	BS EN 269			
	Compressed air line breathing apparatus incorporating a hood	BS EN 270			
	Compressed air line or power assisted fresh air hose breathing apparatus incorporating a hood	BS EN 271			
	Safety Harnesses	Full body harness		BS EN 361	eg Sala Block
		Pole belts		BS EN 358	
Rescue harness		BS 3367			
Retractable fall arrester		BS EN 360			
Guided type fall arrester		BS EN 353			
Shock absorbers		BS EN 355			
Lanyards		BS EN 354			

PPE - European Standards Compliance