



Occupational Health & Safety Program
SECTION 3.6.1
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
PROGRAM (PPEP)

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PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

I PURPOSE

The purpose of the **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Program** is to protect employees from the risk of injury by creating a barrier against workplace hazards. Personal protective equipment is not a substitute for good engineering or administrative controls or good work practices, but should be used in conjunction with these controls to ensure the safety and health of workers. Personal protective equipment will be provided, used, and maintained when it has been determined that its use is required and that such use will lessen the likelihood of occupational injury and/or illness.

This program addresses eye, face, head, foot, and hand, respiratory and hearing protection. The Personal Protective Equipment Program includes:

- Responsibilities of the employer; supervisors and workers
- Hazard assessments
- PPE selection
- Employee training
- Record-keeping requirements

II RESPONSIBILITIES

Employer

- Conduct risk assessments to determine in the circumstances in which the use of PPE would be appropriate.
- Provide appropriate PPE and make it available to workers.
- Ensure workers are instructed in the proper use and care of the PPE.
- Monitor the workplace to ensure workers are wearing the appropriate PPE and the PPE is being maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and regulatory requirements.
- Document the training given to workers.
- Document fit testing and maintenance of equipment as necessary.

Supervisors

- Ensure appropriate PPE is available to workers.
- Ensure appropriate PPE is worn when required.
- Ensure appropriate PPE is cleaned, inspected, maintained and stored properly.

Workers

- Attend education and training sessions provided by the employer.
- Inspect the PPE before each use.
- Wear PPE as required.
- Care for, clean and maintain PPE as required.
- Refrain from wearing the PPE outside of the work area where it is required if to do so would constitute a hazard.
- Inform supervisors of the need to repair or replace PPE.

III HEAD PROTECTION

Workers must wear safety headgear where there is a danger of head injury from falling, flying or thrown objects or other harmful contacts and in compliance with Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 8.11. Safety headgear must meet the requirements of *CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z94.1-92, Industrial Head Protective Headwear*.

IV RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Workers must wear respirators if they are or may be exposed to concentrations of air contaminants in excess of applicable exposure limits or in an oxygen deficient atmosphere. The selection, use and care of respirators must be:

- Made in accordance with *CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z94.4-93, Selection, Use and Care of Respirators*.
- Made in consultation with the worker who must wear the respirator.
- Made in consultation with the joint committee.

All workers who are required to wear respirators will be properly fit tested on an annual basis. Records will be maintained of:

- Fit test results
- Worker instruction

- Maintenance of airline respirators

In circumstances where respirators are provided to workers but not required (i.e. where there is no exposure exceeding the exposure limits):

- Respirators will be selected, used and cared for in accordance *with CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z94.4-93, Selection, Use and Care of Respirators.*
- Workers will be adequately instructed in the proper use and care of the respirators.

V EYE AND FACE PROTECTION

Workers must wear appropriate eye and face protection if:

- They are handling or are exposed to materials that are likely to injure or irritate the eyes.
- If they have 20/200 or less vision in either eye, or are blind in either eye.
- If they are working on or testing electrical equipment energized at a potential greater than 30 volts.

Eye protection and face protection must meet the requirements of *CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z94.3-92, Industrial Eye and Face Protectors*

Examples of jobs/activities/tasks that require the use of eye/face protectors:

- Handling chemicals
- Work in the woodworking shop
- Chain sawing
- Sanding or cutting material with powered equipment
- Grinding
- Welding
- Spray painting

Workers who wear contact lenses must inform their supervisor to ensure that the appropriate eye/face protection is chosen.

VI FOOT PROTECTION

If required, foot protection meeting the requirements of *CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z195.3-M92, Protective Footwear* must be worn.

VII LIMB AND BODY PROTECTION

Properly fitting gloves appropriate to the conditions must be worn by workers where there is exposure to substances or work methods that could likely puncture, abrade or adversely affect

the skin or be absorbed through it. Suitable gloves must be worn when hazards from chemicals, cuts, lacerations, abrasions, punctures, burns, biologicals, and harmful temperature extremes are present. Glove selection should be based on performance characteristics of the gloves, conditions, durations of use, and hazards present. One type of glove will not work in all situations.

The first consideration in the selection of gloves for use against chemicals is to determine, if possible, the exact nature of the substances to be encountered. Read instructions and warnings on chemical container labels and SDS's before working with any chemical. Recommended glove types are often listed in the section for personal protective equipment.

Chemicals eventually permeate all glove materials. However, they can be used safely for limited time periods if specific use and other characteristics (i.e., thickness and permeation rate and time) are known.

Leg protective devices must be worn when workers operate chain saws. The leg protective devices must meet the requirements of *WCB Standard, PPE 1-1997 Leg Protective Devices*. All leg protective devices must have a label permanently affixed to the outer surface of the device indicating the standard it meets.

VIII HEARING PROTECTION

The selection and use of hearing protectors are part of the overall "Noise Control and Hearing Conservation Program" as required by Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 7.3. Workers will be provided with and must wear appropriate hearing protectors when they are or may be exposed to noise exceeding 85 dBA.

Hearing protectors will be provided and maintained in accordance with *CSA Standard CAN/CSA-Z94.2-94, Hearing Protectors and its Appendix*.

IX PROGRAM REVIEW

Each of the above programs will be reviewed annually by the District Health & Safety Department. The purpose of the review is to determine whether the existing program requires change as a result of regulatory change or change in work methods or practices.

X SOWP's

*0001	Respiratory Precautions for Dusty Environments
*0002	Clean-up of Mouse Feces including the "card"
*0003	Preventative Measures for Working in Mould Contaminated Areas
SEA No. 1	Best Practice Personal Clothing, Shoes and Accessories

