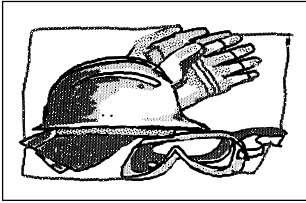


SAFETY ANSWER BOOK



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT — GENERAL Requirements Summary

Selection

In general, the greater the level of PPE protection, the greater are the associated risks. For any given situation, equipment and clothing should be selected that provide an adequate level of protection. Over-protection as well as under-protection can be hazardous and should be avoided.

All PPE should be safe in design and construction and maintained in a clean and reliable fashion. Take the fit and comfort of PPE into consideration when selecting appropriate PPE, as items that fit well and are comfortable will encourage employee use.

Purchase

Employers must pay for PPE if it is selected to be used in the workplace to comply with one of the PPE requirements in OSHA's standards. This includes goggles, hard hats, hearing protection, metatarsal guards (except when the employee requests to use their own shoes or boots with built-in metatarsal protection) fall protection, non-standard specialty items (e.g., prescription eyeglass inserts for full-facepiece respirators), face shields, etc.

Employers do not have to pay for PPE if it is:

- Not required;
- Everyday clothing (e.g., long sleeve shirts, long pants, street shoes, normal work boots) **unless** it is required to be used and provides protection from a workplace hazard;
- Clothing that is worn to keep employees clean for purposes unrelated to safety and health (e.g., blue jeans, aprons) or simply worn to identify a person as an employee (e.g., uniforms, caps);
- Non-specialty protective footwear (e.g., steel-toe shoes or boots) and non-specialty prescription safety eyewear *if* these items can be worn off the job-site; or