

APS CONTROL

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is essential for safeguarding employees from workplace hazards. It includes items such as gloves, goggles, helmets, masks, and protective clothing. Here are the main points about PPE:

- 1. Provision of PPE:**
 - Employers must provide PPE when hazards that can cause injury or impairment are present. This ensures employees have the necessary equipment to protect themselves.
- 2. Limitations of PPE:**
 - PPE should not be the only method of protection. It is not a substitute for engineering controls (like machine guards), work practices (such as proper handling techniques), or administrative controls (like changing schedules to reduce exposure). These should be prioritized to control hazards.
- 3. Barrier Function:**
 - PPE acts as a barrier between the hazard and the body, protecting against exposure through skin contact, inhalation, or ingestion. For example, goggles protect the eyes from chemical splashes, and gloves protect the hands from harmful substances.
- 4. Potential for Failure:**
 - PPE does not eliminate the hazard. If it fails or is not used correctly, exposure can occur. Regular inspection, maintenance, and correct usage are crucial to ensure PPE provides adequate protection.

OSHA PPE Standard

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has established standards for PPE to ensure employee safety:

- 1. Hazard Assessment:**
 - Employers must assess the workplace to identify potential hazards that require PPE. This involves evaluating the environment, processes, and equipment to determine risks and necessary protective equipment.
- 2. Selection and Provision of PPE:**
 - Based on the hazard assessment, employers must select appropriate PPE that fits each affected employee properly. For example, respirators must form a proper seal to be effective.
- 3. Employee Training:**
 - Employers must train employees on the proper use, care, and limitations of PPE. This includes instructions on how to wear and adjust equipment, recognizing signs of wear or damage, and knowing when PPE is necessary.

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Employer Responsibilities

- **Hazard Assessment:** Employers must conduct a thorough assessment to identify potential hazards in the workplace. These hazards can include:
 - **Physical Hazards:** Risks from falling objects, extreme temperatures, or high noise levels.
 - **Chemical Hazards:** Exposure to harmful substances or chemicals.
 - **Electrical Hazards:** Dangers from live wires or faulty electrical equipment.
 - **Mechanical Hazards:** Risks from moving machinery or equipment.
 - **Biological Hazards:** Exposure to bacteria, viruses, or other biological agents.
 - **Health Hazards:** Factors that can affect health, such as repetitive strain or ergonomic issues.

PPE Selection

- PPE must be selected to:
 - Provide protection for each employee against identified hazards.
 - Be designed and constructed safely.
 - Be sanitary and dependable.
 - Fit each employee properly.
 - Comply with BIS or other relevant approval agency standards.

PPE Training Requirements

Employees must receive training to understand:

- **When PPE is Necessary:** Situations or tasks that require the use of PPE.
- **What PPE is Necessary:** The specific types of PPE needed for various hazards?
- **How to Properly Don, Adjust, and Wear PPE:** Instructions on how to correctly put on, fit, and use PPE.
- **Limitations of PPE:** Understanding the extent to which PPE can protect and its limitations.
- **Proper Care and Maintenance of PPE:** Guidelines for maintaining PPE in good condition and ensuring its effectiveness.

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Employee Responsibilities

Employees have a duty to:

- Attend all PPE training sessions.
- Use appropriate PPE on the job as required.
- Follow all warnings and precautions associated with PPE use.
- Listen to and follow directions regarding safety practices.
- Maintain assigned PPE in good condition.
- Report any unsafe conditions in their work area.

What is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) consists of specialized clothing or equipment worn by workers to protect against health and safety hazards. PPE is designed to safeguard workers from serious workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards.

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Lockout/Tagout Procedures Checklist

- **Deenergizing Equipment:**
 - Ensure all machinery or equipment capable of movement is deenergized or disengaged and blocked or locked out during cleaning, servicing, adjusting, or setting up operations.
- **Control Circuit Disconnects:**
 - If the power disconnect does not also disconnect the electrical control circuit, verify that the appropriate electrical enclosures are identified and a method is provided to ensure the control circuit can be disconnected and locked out.
- **Prohibition of Control Circuit Lockout:**
 - Ensure that locking out control circuits instead of the main power disconnects is prohibited.
- **Lockout for Control Valve Handles:**
 - Confirm that all equipment control valve handles are equipped with a means for locking out.
- **Stored Energy Release:**
 - Verify that the lockout procedure requires stored energy (mechanical, hydraulic, air, etc.) to be released or blocked before equipment is locked out for repairs.
- **Personal Safety Locks:**
 - Ensure that appropriate employees are provided with individually keyed personal safety locks.
- **Control of Safety Lock Keys:**
 - Require employees to keep personal control of their key(s) while safety locks are in use.
- **Exclusive Lock Placement/Removal:**
 - Require that only the employee exposed to the hazard can place or remove the safety lock.
- **Safety Check:**
 - Instruct employees to check the safety of the lockout by attempting a startup after ensuring no one is exposed.
- **Re-energizing Equipment:**
 - Instruct employees to always push the control circuit stop button before re-energizing the main power.

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Lockout/Tagout Procedures Checklist

- **Identification of Employees:**
 - Ensure there is a method to identify all employees working on locked-out equipment by their locks or accompanying tags.
- **Provision of Safety Equipment:**
 - Confirm that a sufficient number of accident prevention signs or tags and safety padlocks are available for any reasonably foreseeable repair emergency.
- **Separate Lockout for Machine Parts:**
 - If machine operations, configuration, or size require an operator to leave the control station and part of the machine could move if accidentally activated, ensure that the part is separately locked out or blocked.
- **Safe Job Procedures for Non-Lockable Equipment:**
 - If equipment or lines cannot be shut down, locked out, and tagged, establish and strictly follow a safe job procedure.

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