

HORTUS PINK SUB-CONTRACTOR PPE POLICY

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Signed:



PPE Policy

Personal Protective Equipment ('PPE') is equipment which protects the Sub-Contractor against health or safety risks at work. However, it must only be used as a last resort when no other means of control are available. It includes eye and face protection, hearing protection, head protection, respiratory protection, safety boots and gloves and any protection required where Sub-Contractors have to work in adverse weather conditions.

Company Responsibilities

Sub-Contractors are required to identify, assess and control the risks to which they or their employees are exposed to in the workplace. Where engineering controls and safe systems of work cannot be employed to remove, reduce or isolate risks to an acceptable level, PPE should be considered as a last resort as it only protects the person wearing it and theoretical levels of protection are difficult to achieve in practice. To meet this requirement in order to adhere to the CCS Code of Practice, The Company will carry out risk assessments to identify the PPE requirements of their Sub-Contractors to arrange their own appropriate PPE. When selecting PPE products Sub-Contractors must ensure they meet the CE standard in accordance with the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992 (as amended 2002)/ The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 and choose equipment that suits the user.

Sub-Contractors will undertake adequate information gathering, instruction and training to use the PPE correctly. This will include an explanation of the risks, why PPE is needed, how it should be used and any limitations in its use. The Sub-Contractor must monitor its correct use, check before issue and be responsible for their own maintenance, cleaning and issue records. Hortus Pink reserves the right to an assessment of PPE to ensure suitability.

Construction Sites

HORTUS PINK ("The Company") will provide all CDM plans for projects beforehand to allow Sub-Contractors to supply their own PPE in time. The Company also specifies to its Sub-Contractors that it requires the following 8 points of PPE on all construction projects:

- Safety Footwear – to be worn at all times
- Gloves - general purpose gloves for site visits and task specific gloves for activities such as cutting and manual handling are required
- Clothing - wet weather and protection from sun
- Ear defenders - to be worn at all times when using machinery
- Face mask - suitable for the task at hand
- Safety glasses - to include general purpose/ clear winter and UV summer protection
- Safety Helmet – (safety helmets have an expiry date which should be observed) to be worn at all times where heavy machinery is in operation or risk of overhead injury
- Hi-Vis vest or jacket – to be worn at all times where machinery is in operation

Additional PPE may be required depending on construction activity and associated risk. Failure to comply with this policy will be regarded as a serious breach of health and safety procedures and breach may result in exclusion from the sites and ultimately could lead to dismissal.

PPE GUIDANCE

EYE PROTECTION

Protecting the eyes may require safety glasses, goggles, face screen, face shield or visors to safeguard against chemical or metal splash, dust, projectiles, gas and vapour or radiation.

HEAD AND NECK PROTECTION

Industrial safety helmets, bump caps and hairnets may be appropriate to protect against impacts from falling or flying objects, risk of head bumping, getting hair tangled in machinery, chemical drips or splash, climate or temperature.

EAR PROTECTION

The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 / The Control of Noise at Work Regulations (NI) 2006 ensures that workers' hearing is protected from excessive noise at their place of work, which could cause them to lose their hearing and/or to suffer from tinnitus (permanent ringing in the ears).

Where possible noise levels must be reduced at source to the lowest practical level by using silencers, mufflers or noise enclosures. When it is not possible to reduce noise levels further and exposure remains above 85 decibels (daily or weekly average exposure) hearing protection and/or a hearing protection zone must be used. At 80 decibels the Sub-Contractor must assess the risk to workers' health and provide them with information.

The exposure limit is 87 decibels, taking account of any reduction in exposure provided by hearing protection, above which workers must not be exposed. When considering the type of Hearing Protectors to use consider the type of noise, its frequency, the duration of exposure, and compatibility with other types of PPE being worn. Ear plugs or earmuffs may be appropriate.

HANDS AND ARMS PROTECTION

The use of safety gloves, gauntlets and sleeving can protect against abrasion, temperature extremes, cuts and punctures, impact, chemicals, electric shock, radiation, vibration, biological agents and prolonged immersion in water. Special consideration should be given to using gloves when operating machines such as bench drills where the gloves might get caught. Barrier creams are unreliable and are no substitute for proper PPE. Wearing gloves for long periods can make the skin hot and sweaty, leading to skin problems. Using separate cotton inner gloves can help prevent this.

FEET AND LEGS PROTECTION

Safety boots and shoes with protective toecaps and penetration-resistant, mid-sole wellington boots and other site specific footwear, e.g. foundry boots may be appropriate to protect against wet, hot and cold conditions, electrostatic build-up, slipping, cuts and punctures, falling objects, heavy loads, metal and chemical splash and vehicles. Footwear can have a variety of sole patterns and materials to guard against slips in different conditions, including oil or chemical-resistant soles. It can also be anti-static, electrically conductive or thermally insulating so appropriate footwear should be selected for the risks identified.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (RPE)

Whenever materials are being used which are liable to produce dust, toxic gases or vapours or where the atmosphere may be oxygen deficient there is a hazard to the respiratory system. Every effort must be made to control the hazard at source. Where this is not possible it will be necessary to provide and use RPE. An assessment of the risk as required by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) needs to consider the following: 1) Ensure the air is not oxygen deficient; and 2) Nature and level of the contaminant.

If the air is deficient of oxygen, equipment which provides air is required i.e. breathing apparatus. If sufficient air for breathing is present, but the air is contaminated air filtering equipment is required, i.e. a respirator. Where there is a shortage of oxygen or any danger of losing consciousness due to exposure to high levels of harmful fumes, only use breathing apparatus – never use a filtering cartridge. Breathing Apparatus must be used in a confined space or if there is a chance of an oxygen deficiency in the work area. All operatives required to wear respiratory protection will be trained in their use and be medically fit.

WHOLE BODY PROTECTION

Flame-retardant, anti-static, chain mail, chemically impermeable or high-visibility overalls, boiler suits, aprons or chemical suits should be used to guard against the risk of heat, chemical or metal splash, spray from pressure leaks or spray guns, contaminated dust, impact or penetration, excessive wear or entanglement of own clothing as appropriate.

SAFETY HARNESSSES

They should only be used when it is totally impractical to provide working platforms or safety nets. Safety harnesses comprise of shoulder and crutch straps, should be easily adjustable and fitted with a lanyard which will limit the fall distance to a maximum of 2 metres.

Safety harnesses used as part of a rescue device will be directly attached to the rescue lifting device. Harness must be inspected prior to use and inspected every 6 months as per LOLER Regs.