

ESSENTIAL
STANDARD
no.2

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Safe People
Happy People
Sustainable Business

KEY MESSAGES

- PPE is worn or held in order to protect a person against risks.
- PPE must be: free of charge to employees, suitable for tasks and risks, compatible with other PPE, comfortable and comply with BS standards and Bridges minimum standards.
- All PPE should be specific to the task being undertaken.

1. Introduction

Workplace risks must be mitigated by implementing control measures but, as an extra precaution, companies must also provide employees with appropriate PPE.

2. What is PPE?

PPE is gear that is worn or held by a person and protects them from one or more risks to their health and safety.

3. Regulation Requirements

Work Regulations 1992 state that PPE must be supplied and used at work wherever there are risks to health and safety that cannot be adequately controlled in other ways.

It also states PPE must be:

- suitable for tasks and risks,
- compatible with other PPE,
- comfortable and
- comply with BS standards.

4. Assessing PPE Suitability

Key questions to ask:



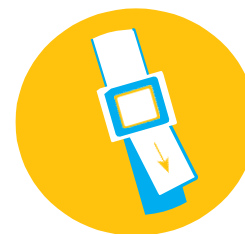
What are the needs of the job and the demands it places on the wearer?



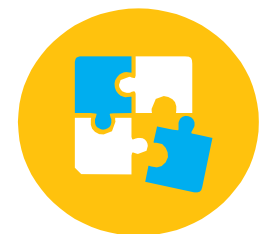
Is it appropriate for the risk involved and the conditions where exposure may occur?



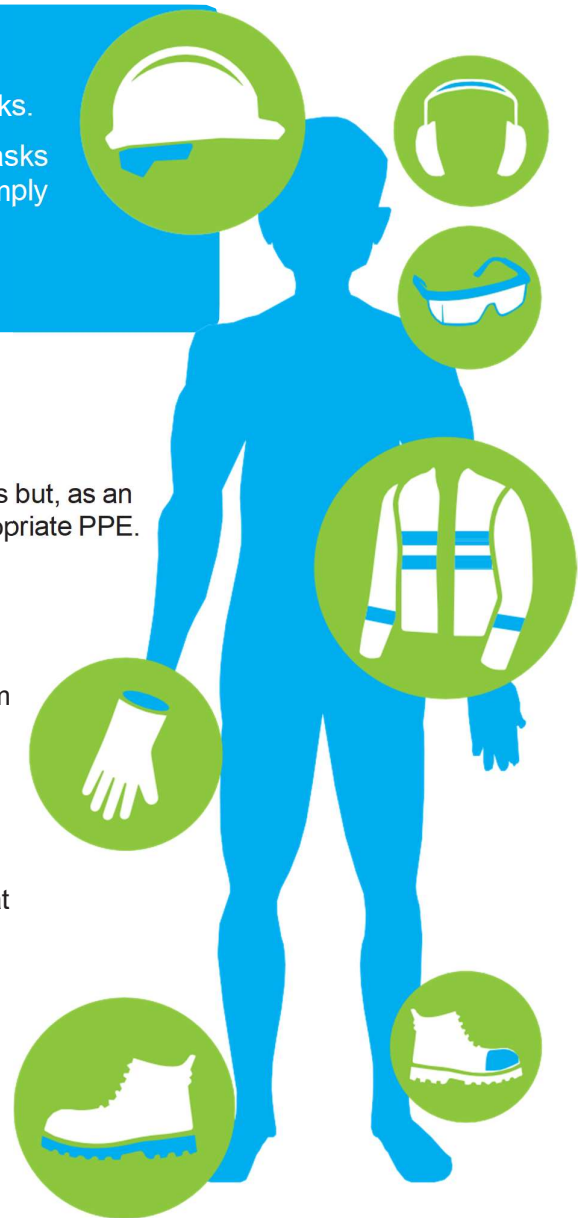
Does it prevent or control the risks involved without increasing the overall level of risk?



Can it be adjusted to fit correctly?








Is it compatible with other PPE being worn?



5. Bridges Water Minimum Standards for PPE

The most common injuries sustained are to the head, hands, feet, body and eyes so it's our policy that hard hats, gloves, safety footwear, Hi-viz outerwear and glasses are worn on all operational sites.

The below table sets out the minimum PPE requirements for various roles and activities:

	Indicative role / activity (not an exhaustive list)	Safety footwear 	Hi-viz outerwear 	Head protection 	Gloves 	Eye protection 
Bridges Workshops	Office Staff Not carrying out manual work activities	NE	M	NE	NE	NE
Bridges Workshops	All personnel and contractors carrying out manual work Activities	M	M	TS	TS	TS
Bridges Yards	Office Staff Not carrying out manual work activities	NE	M	NE	NE	NE
Bridges Yards	All personnel and contractors carrying out manual work activities	M	M	TS	TS	TS
All Sites	All Personnel, Visitors & Contractors (See Electrical & Mechanical Safety Rules for specific requirements)	M	M Full Body Long Sleeve & Trousers Orange Hi-viz	M	M	M
Additional notes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any change from minimum standard will require a documented site-specific risk assessment, for the day of operation. All PPE should be specific to the task being undertaken, i.e. welding goggles whilst welding. Cut protection gloves to EN 388:2016 4.X.4.4.E or equivalent are a Mandatory requirement for all manual cutting operations in all locations Some roles / activities require specific PPE, such as ARC rated work-wear for Electricians and details of this can be found in the relevant safety rules or task RAMS. Flame/arc retardant PPE when breaking the ground etc Hoodies worn underneath or over PPE and beanie/woolly hats worn underneath safety helmets are prohibited Turban-wearing Sikhs are exempt from any legal requirement to wear head protection at a workplace. Where this is the case, all other precautions must be taken to prevent head injury arising, including restricting access to areas where this could occur 					


M Mandatory Requirement

TS Required according to a task-specific assessment

NE Not essential, unless the task requires it

6. General Advice on Hazards and PPE


HEAD:



Impact from falling or flying objects and bumping or hair entanglement

Head protection suitable for the task and the work environment – e.g. bump cap or hard hats

EYES:

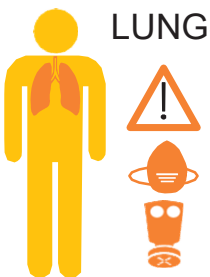


Chemical or metal splashes, dust, projectiles, gases and vapours and radiation

Safety spectacles, goggles, face shield and visors

Note: Prescription safety eyewear is available


LUNGS:



Dust, vapours, gases and oxygen-deficient atmospheres

Disposable filtering face pieces or respirators, half- or full-face respirators and breathing apparatus


ARMS & HANDS:



Abrasion, temperature extremes, cuts and punctures, impact, chemicals, skin infection, disease or contamination


Gloves and gauntlets - **Note: `Cut protection Gloves` are a Mandatory requirement for all manual cutting operations on all sites**

BODY:



Abrasions, temperature extremes, adverse weather, chemical or metal splashes, contaminated dust, excessive wear or entanglement of clothes. Conventional or disposable overalls, boiler suits, specialist and high-visibility clothing (must be kept close)

LEGS & FEET:



Wet conditions, slipping, cuts and punctures, falling objects, chemical splashes and abrasion

Safety boots with protective toe caps and penetration-resistant midsoles, protective Wellingtons and protective waders

7. Issuing PPE



Record the issue of PPE to an individual.

PPE Records must be kept for 6Y.

Ensure that PPE no longer required is returned and accounted for.

Disposal of unused PPE must follow company procedures. This ensures the removal of PPE that displays the company brand & prevents unauthorised use.

8. Training

Ensure workers are trained on:



- why and when PPE is needed;
- PPE limitations;
- the importance of reporting PPE defects so it can be repaired or replaced; and
- the importance of wearing PPE all the time while exposed to a risk – no exceptions.

9. Maintenance

Employees must take care of PPE by:



- storing them in a dry and clean location e.g. cupboard;
- keeping them clean;
- following the manufacturer's maintenance schedule and shelf life dates; and
- ensuring replacement PPE is readily available.

10. Remember

PPE is the last line of defense in the hierarchy of risk reduction. Ensure all other controls (Elimination, Substitution, Engineering Controls & Administrative Controls have been put in place first!

