

Correct Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Whilst implementing a strong safety culture, we have identified that PPE compliance on site is an area for improvement. This demonstrates that easily avoidable hazards are still occurring everyday on site, that could easily be mitigated by following the correct process. Below highlights the key points to remember when using PPE. Further information can be found in Bridges mandatory 'Essential Safety Standard 002'

1. PPE Requirements:

All personnel on every site within the site boundary must wear as a minimum:

In winter remember to layer up and wear waterproof clothing.

All PPE issued must be CE marked and meet the minimum BS-EN standard.

Beanies and hoodies must not be worn under helmets.

2. Practices:

Your RAMS should outline the appropriate type of PPE required and any additional requirements.

Subcontractors (including delivery drivers) are required to comply with Bridges PPE rules.

Standard PPE and any replacements required to control risk will be provided to employees free of charge.

3. Task Specific PPE:

When handling hazardous substances or spills, ensure you wear PPE detailed in the COSHH Assessment.

Where identified as a control by noise assessment, hearing protection must be provided and worn.

Electricians (APLV and above) must wear ARC rated PPE. Flame proof PPE is to be worn by all other site staff.

4. Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE):

RPE should not be worn with facial hair as it can compromise the seal of the mask. Alternatives should be provided.

face fit testing should be carried out on all employees that are required to use RPE.

A record of the face fit test should be kept.

5. Records and Training:

Training and instruction shall be provided to all persons issued with PPE.

A record of thorough inspection must be present and in-date for all harnesses.

A record of all PPE issued must be kept.

6. Maintenance:

Visually inspect PPE before each wear. Report damaged / faulty equipment.

PPE should be stored in-line with the manufacturer's guidelines.

Don't dry PPE on a heater, use a dedicated drying room.

If moving to a clean water site from a dirty water site, thoroughly clean or change PPE to prevent contamination.