

PPE

Who provides PPE?

- The company provides all PPE except work boots, winter coats, and prescription safety glasses.
- Visitors will be provided with temporary PPE while they are visiting work areas.

Types of PPE

There are 4 main categories of PPE.

- **Hearing protection** – earmuffs or earplugs to protect from hazardous noise.
- **Skin and body protection** – these protect from physical and chemical hazards.
- **Face and Eye** – physical and chemical hazards e.g. UV light and acids, sparks, flying objects, etc.
- **Respiratory** – protection from physical, chemical, and biological hazards.

PPE Selection

For PPE to be most effective whilst the worker is wearing it, the following factors need to be considered:

- Identify the potential physical hazards and the potential exposure hazards.
- Must be suitable for the nature of work.
- PPE must be a suitable size, fit, and comfortable to wear.
- If you wear multiple garments of PPE, they must be compatible with other PPE.
- Must meet industry standards (ANSI).
- Any new risks associated with wearing PPE must be identified and managed.

Maintenance and fitting of PPE

- For respiratory protection that has a tight-fitting seal, medical evaluation and fit testing must be conducted to ensure correct fit, selection, and health issues are recognized.
- Training has to be completed on how to put on and take off a respirator and how to maintain the respirator.
- For hearing protection, ensure it is fitted correctly, have correct class and wearers know how to correctly wear hearing protection.
- Think about who is responsible for PPE maintenance.
- How PPE will be stored in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- Record the expiration date or the date the next inspection is due.
- Cleanliness of PPE – e.g., washing, wiping, storing respirators away from contaminants.
- Checking and changing filters in respiratory protection.
- Checking for damage or defects – repair or replace damaged PPE.

Key takeaways:

1. PPE reduces risk but does not eliminate the risk.
2. PPE should be correctly selected and fitted.
3. Pay attention to training on how to wear PPE correctly.
4. PPE needs to be maintained and stored properly.

