

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Introduction:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires employers to protect their employees from workplace hazards such as machines, work procedures, and hazardous substances that can cause injury. The preferred way to do this is through engineering controls or work practice and administration controls, but when these controls are not feasible or do not provide sufficient protection, an alternative or supplementary method of protection is to provide workers with personal protection equipment (PPE) and the know-how to use it properly.

Purpose:

The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) program has been developed to provide employees and workers with the necessary information to identify work situations that require the use of PPE, the proper selection and use of PPE, and documentation of this information.

What is Personal Protective Equipment?

Personal protective equipment, or PPE, includes a variety of devices and garments to protect workers from injuries. PPE includes:

- Goggles.
- Face Shields.
- Safety Glasses.
- Hard Hat.
- Safety Shoes.
- Gloves.
- Safety Belt, Harness.
- Earplugs and Ear Muffs.
- Respirators.
- Aprons, and Body Protection.



PPE should be used in conjunction with permanent protective measures, such as engineered guards, substitution of less hazardous chemicals, and prudent work practices.

Identifying Potential Hazards in the Workplace: (Hazard Assessment)

Employers should identify and assess the risks to health and safety present in the workplace, so enabling the most appropriate means of reducing those risks to an acceptable level to be determined.

Training:

Prior to conducting work requiring the use of personal protective equipment, employees must be trained to know:

- When PPE is necessary;
- What type is necessary;
- How it is to be worn;
- What its limitations are; and,
- Proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal.

Employers should provide appropriate PPE and training in its use to its employees.

No charge can be made to employee for the provision of PPE which is used only at work.

Selection, Use and Maintenance of PPE:

A- Head Protection:

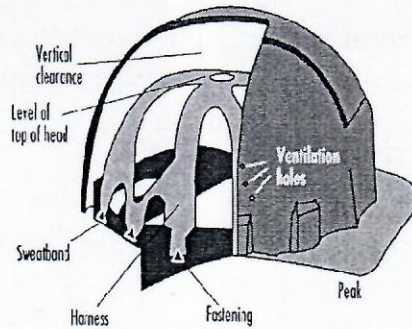
Prevention of head injuries is an important factor in every safety program. Head injuries are caused by falling or flying objects, or by bumping the head against a fixed object.

Head protection, in the form of protective hats, must do two things:

Resist penetration;

Absorb the shock of the blow.

This is accomplished by making the shell of the hat of a material hard enough to resist the blow, and by utilizing a shock-absorbing lining composed of headband and crown straps to keep the shell away from the wearer's skull.



Selection:

Each type and class of head protector is intended to provide protection against specific hazardous conditions. An understanding of these conditions will help in selecting the right hat for the particular situation.

Protective hats are made in the following types and classes:

Type 1:

Helmets with full brim, not less than 1 and ¼ inches wide.



Type 2:

Brimless helmets with a peak extending forward from the crown.



For industrial purposes, three classes of helmets are recognized:

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