

Introduction

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is equipment which is intended to be worn or held by a person at work to protect them against foreseeable risks to their health and safety. It includes:

- safety helmets
- disposable gloves & rubber gloves
- eye protection
- high visibility clothing
- safety footwear
- respiratory protection
- safety harnesses.



PPE must be provided by employers and used by employees when foreseeable health and safety risks cannot be controlled in other ways.

Our Responsibilities

- ✓ We have complied with our responsibilities by considering the work you do and where you do it. We have assessed that there are foreseeable risks of injury to your *head, eyes, feet, lungs* which requires the use of PPE.
- ✓ The PPE, (explain the provision) e.g. *safety helmet, protective footwear* that we have provided for your use has been assessed for the protection it provides and its suitability to our work.
- ✓ This PPE is provided free of charge and you have been shown how to use it and told when it must be used.



Your responsibilities.

You also have legal responsibilities in respect of the PPE that we have issued to you.

- ✓ You must use it and wear it, correctly.
- ✓ If it doesn't fit - report it to your supervisor.
- ✓ Keep it clean.
- ✓ Maintain and store it properly.
- ✓ Follow the instructions for its use.
- ✓ Tell us if there is anything wrong with the PPE provided. If it is worn out, broken, missing, in need of maintenance or cleaning etc, you must report it. It can be replaced your hearing, eyes head, lings etc. cannot.
- ✓ If you are unsure about how to use PPE (e.g. respirators or fall-arrest harnesses & lanyards) ask for information and training.



Remember:

Remember these are legal duties that apply directly to. If you do not comply we would have to consider it a disciplinary matter.

If you have any concerns about the PPE you have been provided with or are unsure of when it is to be used speak to your supervisor, manager or safety representative.

FAQs

Q: When must PPE be used?

A: *When there is no other way that can be reasonably practicably used to control a health and safety risk.*

Q: Could an employee be prosecuted by an enforcing authority for failure to use PPE that has been provided for their use?

A: *Yes. They have specific duties to use PPE provided in the course of their work and also more generally to cooperate with their employer and follow their safety instructions.*



Q: When might you be allowed to work without using the PPE provided for the task?

A: *NEVER. Where we have identified a requirement for PPE and told you that it must be used you must always use it. Failure to do so could be treated as a disciplinary offence and ultimately you could end up not working for us. If we are working on a large contractor's site they might ban you from further work on site.*