

PPE Use.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is intended to protect you from risks, which cannot be eliminated or guarded against by other more effective means. PPE is equipment that is intended to be worn or held by a person at work to protect them against risks to their health or safety. For example, safety helmets, gloves, eye protection, high visibility clothing, safety footwear and safety harnesses.

Importance.

Your employer must assess the work you do and take all reasonable steps to eliminate or reduce risks. If they decide that some risk remains they must provide you with PPE.

Regulations.

The main requirement of the PPE at Work Regulations 1992 is that personal protective equipment is to be supplied and used at work wherever there are risks to health and safety that cannot be adequately controlled in other ways.

Guidance.

- You must wear any PPE provided by your employer and they must see that you do.
- You must wear and use the PPE in the way it was intended – therefore it must fit you.
- If PPE doesn't fit correctly - report it.
- PPE must be suitable for the risk and the job in hand – if it's not – report it.
- PPE must not itself create a new risk, if it does, report it.
- You must take care of the PPE and not abuse it.
- You have no right to take the PPE off a site unless your employer says you can. Otherwise, you must return it to the appropriate storage place after use.
- If you are unsure about how to use PPE (e.g. breathing apparatus) ask for training first. You must be adequately trained.

- If there is anything wrong with the PPE provided e.g. worn out, broken, missing, In need of maintenance or cleaning etc. you must report it.
- Make sure multiple items of PPE worn together are compatible with each other.
- The HSE provide free advice leaflets on PPE which can be downloaded from the website.
- If you know of a problem regarding PPE or a risk that you need guarding against TELL YOUR SUPERVISOR!

Questions.

1. What should you do if your PPE does not fit you?
2. What should you do if you are unsure how to use the PPE provided?

Summary.

PPE is your last line of defence against a risk or a hazard. Make sure PPE fits you properly and is in good working order. You must wear any PPE provided by your employer and they must see that you do.