



Personal Protective Equipment at Work

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The Details

The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (or PPE at Work Regulations) details the need for employees to wear and use equipment to protect themselves from potential hazards to their health and safety.

E.g. Eye goggles should be worn to protect eyes when using high strength cleaning agents.

The PPE at work regulations 1992 states that PPE should be supplied to employees, if the risk cannot be avoided in any other way.

E.g. The concentration of the cleaning agent can be diluted to a lower intensity, the necessity to wear eye goggles may be avoided.



The Principles / Rules

There are four main rules that need to be applied with the PPE at Work regulations:

- 1. Selection of Suitable Equipment**

The equipment provided must be suitable for the nature it is intended. E.g. If working with high temperatures specific gloves that can withstand these temperatures must be selected. All PPE should meet the relevant EN standards.

- 2. Maintenance of Equipment**

PPE can deteriorate through use and the environment they are being used, regular checking and replacement of equipment is therefore necessary to ensure the integrity of the PPE.

- 3. Instruction, Training and Implementation of Equipment**

Simply purchasing equipment is not enough, correct and appropriate instructions and training must be provided along with controlled implementation of use.

- 4. Costs**

The cost and implementation of PPE lies directly with the employer. This applies to all PPE regardless of its nature, E.g. made to measure protective clothing or disposable equipment that is non-returnable is still the responsibility of the employer to provide.

If an employee leaves retaining PPE without permission then provided it is stated in

the terms and conditions of employment, you may be able to claim some of the costs back from the employee.

Examples

Some examples of PPE requirements are detailed below: -

Potential Risks Protective Equipment

Eyes: Chemical and metal splash, dust and vapour.

Equipment: Visors, safety spectacles and goggles.

Hands and Arms: Extreme temperatures, chemical splash, electric shock and cuts.

Equipment: Gloves, wrist cuffs, armllets and mits.

Feet and Legs: Wetness, slippage and chemical splash.

Equipment: Protective boots with metal toecaps, leggings.

Breathing: Dust, vapour, gasses.

Equipment: Disposable face mask, respirator.

Other Information

When purchasing PPE you must ensure that all equipment holds the 'CE' marking. This mark ensures that the equipment has been independently tested and meets the required safety standards for the purpose that the product was intended.

Regulations / Legislation Applicable

It should be noted however that the PPE at work regulations 1992 are superseded when other more specific legislation is applicable as detailed in the examples below: -

- The Control of Lead at Work Regulations 2002.
- The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999.
- The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2012.
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended).
- The Noise at Work Regulations 1989.
- The Construction (Head Protection) Regulations 1989.

Disclaimer


The above is intended as a quick and brief insight into the requirements for the PPE at Work Regulations 1992 and the contents are for guide only. For further information please visit www.hse.gov.uk


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