

Safety Facts:

Safety Footwear



All workers must wear footwear suitable to the conditions and hazards in their workplace. This is usually enclosed footwear of leather or rubber with adequate ankle support. Many workplaces require “safety footwear” which has a protective toe cap and may have sole protection to prevent injury from nails or other sharp objects.

WorkSafe BC OHS Regulation, Parts 8.1-8.10 addresses general requirements for Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment while Parts 8.22-8.23 addresses specific requirements for safety footwear in the workplace.

Part 8.22(2) requires employers to determine the appropriate footwear required for workers based on the following factors; slipping, uneven terrain, abrasion, ankle protection and foot support, crushing potential, temperature extremes, corrosive substances, puncture hazards, electrical shock and any other recognizable hazard.

If safety protective footwear is required, it must meet the requirements of CSA standard Z195-M92 Protective Footwear or another acceptable standard.

- A green triangle marking on footwear indicates maximum protection with a safety toe cap and steel shank to protect the sole of the foot
- A yellow triangle indicates a toe cap that has about 75% of the impact resistance of the green triangle and a steel shank in the sole
- Footwear with a white rectangular marking and the Greek letter “omega” (which looks like a horseshoe) indicates that the footwear offers some protection against electric shock

Safety footwear can be found in most styles including runners, oxfords and hiking boots; the footwear can be pull-on or lace-up and can be made of leather, rubber or a synthetic fabric such as Gore-Tex.

You should remember the following guidelines when purchasing footwear for work:

- Ensure that the footwear fits properly, remember that your feet are normally going to swell up over the course of a working day
- Ensure that the footwear is comfortable and allows you to wear socks without problem
- Footwear should fit snugly at the heel and have adequate space in front of the toes, approximately 12mm
- Ensure that you have a sole that has adequate slip protection based on the conditions of your workplace, no single sole material or design will offer protection against all slip hazards
- One pair of footwear may not be adequate for the environmental conditions you may encounter in the workplace, wet conditions may require the use of rubber footwear while extreme cold may require the use of felt-pack boots

References:

WorkSafeBC PPE www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/PPE/PPEBasics-Types.asp?ReportID=35425

CCOHS Safety Footwear www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/prevention/ppe/footwear.html

Toolbox Talk*



Name of Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Key Learning Points

Safety Specific Training Requirements

Identified Hazards/concerns

Employee feedback/questions

Workers who attended

[illegible]

* **Toolbox Talks are short, informal safety meetings led by a supervisor that are focused on a specific job-related topic or hazard. This document is meant to support the delivery of a Toolbox Talk and not intended to replace the supervisor-guided discussion.**