

Safety Facts: Safety Footwear*



All workers must wear footwear suitable to their work conditions and hazards, such as leather or rubber enclosed footwear with adequate ankle support. Many workplaces require safety footwear with a protective toe cap and sole protection to prevent injury from nails or other sharp objects.

Why is it important?

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations require 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
 - other recognizable hazards
- Key characteristics of MSI injuries



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

- A green triangle marking on footwear indicates maximum protection with a safety toe cap and steel shank to protect the foot sole
- 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
- You can find safety footwear in most styles, including runners, oxfords, and hiking boots.
- Footwear can be pull-on or lace-up and can be rubber, leather, 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. Your feet will often swell up during 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, about 12mm.
- Ensure that you have a sole that has adequate slip protection based on your workplace conditions. 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 encounter in the workplace. Wet conditions may require the use of rubber footwear, while extreme cold may require the use of felt-pack boots



For additional resources visit:

[Personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) | WorkSafeBC

[Safety Footwear](#) | Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

