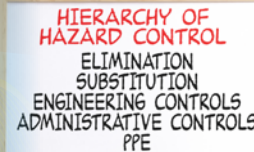


PPE – Worker responsibilities*



The employer, supervisor and workers all have responsibilities when it comes to providing personal protective equipment (PPE) and using it. This is covered by the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* (OHSR) sections 8.2 to 8.10. In general terms, the employer provides the PPE with some exceptions. The supervisor ensures the PPE is available, worn when required, and maintained. The worker uses the PPE as trained and instructed, inspects it before using it, and reports when it fails.



Why is it important?

PPE is the last line of defense against hazardous energy or substances that a worker may be exposed to. It should only be applied after or in conjunction with other controls such as elimination, substitution, engineering, and/or administrative controls (see OHSR 5.55 for more details). We want to ensure that the PPE selected does not create a hazard to the wearer or makes another item of PPE ineffective. Example, the employer provides a latex respirator that the worker is allergic to, and wearing the ½ mask respirator makes the face shield fog up.

What to do

To determine the type of PPE required, the employer needs to do an evaluation in consultation with the workers who will use the equipment and as applicable, with the Joint Health Safety Committee (JHSC) or Worker Health and Safety Representative (WHSR).

The employer must provide instruction on the correct use, limitations and assigned maintenance duties for the PPE to be used. This is especially important when dealing with respiratory equipment.

Workers must:

- Use PPE in accordance with training and instructions
- Inspect the equipment before using it
- Refrain from using PPE outside of the work area where it would create a hazard e.g. using hearing protection in the parking lot where you cannot hear the car approaching you from behind you
- Report any PPE malfunction

Workers' personal clothing and accessories must NOT create a hazard due to contact with moving parts of machinery or with electrical equipment e.g., you are wearing a necklace that can get caught in a machine or conduct electricity.

Worker's head and face hair must be confined or worn at a length that will prevent it being snagged or caught in the work process e.g., long hair wraps around a rotating shaft of the drill press.



For additional resources visit:

[General Requirements](#) | WorkSafeBC

[Type of controls](#) | WorkSafeBC

[Various PPE toolbox talks](#) | Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC

[PPE](#) | WorkSafeBC

