



ELHAP Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy

What is personal protective equipment (PPE)?

PPE is defined in the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations as:

‘All equipment (including clothing affording protection against the weather) which is intended to be worn or held by a person at work which protects them against one or more risks to their health and safety’.

Therefore PPE includes equipment such as; safety footwear, hard hats, high visibility waistcoats, goggles, life jackets, respirators, safety harnesses, etc.

Waterproof, weatherproof or insulated clothing is subject to the Regulations only if its use is necessary to protect employees against adverse climatic conditions that could otherwise affect their health and safety.

What does the law say?

The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations seek to ensure that where the risks cannot be controlled by other means, personal protective equipment (PPE) is correctly selected and used.

The Regulations do not apply where requirements are detailed in other regulations e.g. respirators in the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH). In addition to the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations a number of other regulations have specific requirements for the provision, maintenance and use of PPE.

These regulations include:

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

Under the general requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act, employees cannot be charged for the provision or maintenance of PPE.

Assessing and choosing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The need for PPE must be identified through risk assessment. For example, a COSHH risk assessment may show that gloves are required when using the substance being assessed. As with all risk assessment, those carrying them out must be competent to do so.

Failure to use minimum Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at ELHAP

Any staff failing to use minimum personal protective equipment may be subject to disciplinary action. All staff are advised to carefully consider this and other related policies before undertaking any activity.

Quick Guide to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at ELHAP

The following information is only a guide and staff should carefully consider the safety requirements of each activity that they are undertaking. If staff are unsure they must consult the risk assessment and/or their line manager.

Activity	Equipment Used/Specific Activity	Minimum Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be worn
<i>Gardening</i>	Lawnmower	Ear Protectors Goggles Gloves Safety Boots
	Strimmer	Face Visor Ear protector Goggles Long Sleeved Top Long Trousers (Short Trousers must not be worn) Safety Boots
	Hand Cutting of Bushes/Sheering	Goggles Gloves
<i>Structure Building</i>	Power Drill	Ear Protectors Goggles Gloves Face Respirator/Mask
	Electric Sander	Ear Protectors Goggles Gloves
	Electric Circular Saw	Ear Protectors Goggles Gloves
	Kango (Concrete Breaker)	Ear Protectors Goggles Gloves
	Cement Mixer	Ear Protectors Goggles Gloves Face Respirator/Mask
	Chisels, Hand Drills, Hand	Ear Protectors

	Sawing (and any other hand tool)	Goggles Gloves
	Working at height or working with items above or at head height	Hard Hats Hi Visibility Coats/Tabards Safety Boots Gloves
	Hammering and Nailing	Goggles Gloves
<i>Other Maintenance</i>	Using Tetrion Filler	Goggles Gloves Face Respirator/Mask

The hazards and types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The HSE A short guide to the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (1992) states that the following hazards and PPE options must be considered.

Eyes

Hazards: chemical or metal splash, dust, projectiles, gas and vapour, radiation.

Options: safety spectacles, goggles, faceshields, visors.

Head

Hazards: impact from falling or flying objects, risk of head bumping, hair entanglement.

Options: a range of helmets and bump caps.

Breathing

Hazards: dust, vapour, gas, oxygen-deficient atmospheres.

Options: disposable filtering facepiece or respirator, half- or full-face respirators, air-fed helmets, breathing apparatus.

Protecting the body

Hazards: temperature extremes, adverse weather, chemical or metal splash, spray from pressure leaks or spray guns, impact or penetration, contaminated dust, excessive wear or entanglement of own clothing.

Options: conventional or disposable overalls, boiler suits, specialist protective clothing, eg chain-mail aprons, high-visibility clothing.

Hands and arms

Hazards: abrasion, temperature extremes, cuts and punctures, impact, chemicals, electric shock, skin infection, disease or contamination.

Options: gloves, gauntlets, mitts, wristcuffs, armllets.

Feet and legs

Hazards: wet, electrostatic build-up, slipping, cuts and punctures, falling objects, metal and chemical splash, abrasion.

Options: safety boots and shoes with protective toe caps and penetration-resistant mid-sole, gaiters, leggings, spats.

Further Information

Further information relating to PPE's is attached (HSE's A short guide to the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992).