

Context:

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is anything used or worn by a person to minimise risk to the person's health or safety and includes a wide range of clothing and safety equipment. Common examples of PPE on construction sites include safety boots, hard hats and high visibility clothing. Task or site specific PPE such as gloves, eye protection, ear plugs, respirators, may also be relevant.

When we consider risk and wish to implement controls, we use the Hierarchy of Control to work out how to best manage the risk. The most preferred and effective type of control is 'Elimination' of the hazard. PPE does not control the hazard at the source but relies on human behaviour and tend to be least effective in minimising risks.

Actions Required:

- PPE is to be in good working order and clean/hygienic as required
- PPE is to be suitable for the task and work area
- Workers are to comply with all mandatory safety signage (see right), training and must not intentionally misuse or damage PPE
- PPE is to be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- Workers are to be instructed in how to use, maintain and store the PPE
- Reusable PPE should be inspected for condition prior to each use
- PPE should be reasonably comfortable for the workers and not interfere with any medical conditions of the worker using it
- Ensure compatibility of PPE with other safety/medical equipment e.g. prescription glasses, or ear muffs and hard hat etc.
- Periodic assessments are carried out to ensure PPE is effective



Head Protection:

Hard hats are required to be worn at all times in designated Property Services work areas. An adjustable chin strap must be attached to hard hats when working at height.

The major type of head protection is, of course, a safety helmet. Without head protection you are at risk of being struck by falling objects, moving objects or projectiles.

Foot Protection:

Foot protection, in the form of steel toe safety cap boots is mandatory for all personnel undertaking maintenance or construction activities for Property Services Sites.

Foot protection is essential and without it you are at risk of:

- Falling objects
- Electric shock
- Slips and trips
- Impact injury tools such as jack hammers
- Cold/heat
- Abrasions, cuts and punctures

Safety boots should include the following features:

- Above ankle height to protect ankles
- Lace up for secure fit
- Made of durable leather for protection against sharp objects and some chemicals
- Deep grooved tread to prevent slips
- Boot must be in good condition, no hole in boots, steel toe caps **must not** be visible

Protective Clothing:

The most common forms of body protection are:

- Breathable long sleeve top
- Sunscreen available at all site sheds
- High-vis vest or jacket
- Durable long pants
- Heavy duty jackets and aprons for welding

Protective clothing provides a wide range of protection from obvious and not so obvious dangers, including:

- Low visibility
- Sparks and flying objects
- Cancer causing UV rays
- Exposure to electrical, mechanical, thermal and chemical dangers

Safety Alert Personal Protective Equipment

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What Bad Looks Like:



THESE STANDARDS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE AT RMIT

Safety Alert

Personal Protective Equipment

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What Good Looks Like:



THESE ARE THE STANDARDS RMIT EXPECT