**PPE HANDOUT FOR WORKERS**

**BENEFITS**

If you’re unable to eliminate or minimize a safety hazard in your workplace through engineering controls or the use of safe work practices, you’ll need to ensure that workers have and use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect themselves from that hazard. So it’s important that workers understand their responsibilities as to PPE.

**HOW TO USE THE TOOL**

Adapt this handout for your OHS program, collective agreement and the requirements in your jurisdiction’s OHS laws on PPE, especially as to who’s required to pay for and/or provide PPE. Give all workers this handout, based on one created by WorkSafeBC, as a supplement to a safety or toolbox talk on PPE.

**OTHER RESOURCES:**

- [WorkSafeBC PPE Handout for Workers](#)
- [Complying with the Requirements for Safety Headwear](#)
- [Safety Footwear Requirements under the OHS Laws](#)
- [Complying with the Eye Protection Requirements](#)
- [Complying with the Hierarchy of Fall Protection Equipment](#)
- [PPE topic index](#) on OHSInsider.com

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Always consult your legal counsel and management before implementing any new policies or procedures.
PPE HANDOUT FOR WORKERS

What Is PPE?
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is equipment or clothing designed to protect you from workplace hazards. It includes items such as hard hats, safety boots, coveralls, gloves, safety glasses and goggles, earplugs, high visibility vests, lifejackets, fall protection and respirators.

Who Provides and Pays for PPE?
Unless otherwise agreed upon with the employer, you must provide, at your cost, your own:

- Clothing needed for protection against the natural elements
- Safety headgear
- Safety footwear
- General-purpose gloves. But if a product or a work activity requires specific gloves to protect the worker, the employer must provide these gloves.

The employer must provide and pay for all other PPE required for the job. If you have an allergic reaction or other adverse health effect from employer-provided PPE, such as latex gloves, the employer is responsible for providing an appropriate and equally protective substitute.

How Do You Know What PPE to Select?
When you purchase your own PPE, such as your hard hat or safety boots, check that it meets standards acceptable to [insert OHS regulator in your jurisdiction]. Approved PPE will have a permanent marking or label indicating what standard it meets. For example, safety boots may have a green CSA triangle symbol.

Choose PPE that’s comfortable and fits well. If it doesn’t fit properly, it may not provide adequate protection. And if it isn’t comfortable (such as, too tight or too loose), you’re less likely to wear it.

If the employer is providing PPE, make sure you’re involved in its selection, in consultation with your JHSC or worker representative as applicable.

What Are Your PPE Responsibilities?

- Make sure you’re educated and trained in how and when to fit and wear your PPE properly, and how to clean, maintain, store and dispose of it, before you start work.
- Wear all PPE required for the job.
- Check that your PPE doesn’t compromise your health and safety, such as by interfering with your breathing, vision, communication or mobility.
- Take care of your PPE — clean, maintain and store it properly.
- Inspect your PPE for wear and tear and other damage before use.
- Make sure your PPE is repaired or replaced as necessary. Report any damage to your supervisor or employer.

Who Else Has PPE Responsibilities?
Everyone in the workplace has PPE responsibilities:

- You’re required to wear your PPE.

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• Your supervisor must monitor that you’re wearing it.
• Your JHSC or worker representative participates in addressing issues relating to PPE.
• Your employer has a responsibility to ensure a safe and healthy workplace to protect all workers, including providing and maintaining PPE.

MAKE IT A HABIT TO WEAR YOUR PPE!