

Toolbox Talk

52. Personal Protective Equipment



What?

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is defined as ‘all equipment (including clothing affording protection against the weather) which is intended to be worn or held by a person at work to protect the wearer against one or more risks to health or safety’
- It includes things like helmets, visors, goggles, ear defenders, respirators, gloves, gauntlets, aprons, footwear etc and is intended to minimise the severity of the injury when things go wrong



Why?

- PPE does not prevent accidents but goes a long way to minimise their effect by reducing the severity of the potential injury and is normally used when there is no other way to eliminate or control the risk
- To allow the right type of PPE to be chosen, carefully consider the different hazards in the workplace. This will enable you to assess which types of PPE are suitable to protect against the hazard and for the job to be done
- The Company has an obligation to provide suitable protective equipment which has a mark to verify it meets appropriate standards (i.e. CE marking)

Do



- ✓ Choose the right equipment for the task
- ✓ Visually inspect it prior to use
- ✓ Wear or use the equipment before commencing the task
- ✓ Continue to wear or use the equipment while the risk is still present
- ✓ Report any loss or damage
- ✓ Encourage others to wear or use the correct PPE
- ✓ Observe signs in areas where PPE is required
- ✓ Store equipment in a safe place when not in use
- ✓ Keep PPE clean

Don't



- ✗ Start work without wearing or using the correct PPE all necessary
- ✗ Use ill-fitting or damaged PPE
- ✗ Remove or stop using PPE when the danger is still present
- ✗ Take any chances - even for a few moments
- ✗ Leave PPE lying around



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