

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The Company **shall** provide personal protective equipment and clothing to protect employees for their specific use while in the workplace and ensure they are used correctly.

'Protective clothing' means any item of clothing worn to provide protection for the wearer against one or more of the following hazards:

- Harmful liquids, gases, vapours, dusts, powders, toxins, organisms
- Harmful radiation (both ionizing and non-ionizing)
- Extremes of temperature outside the normal ambient range
- Impacts, vibrations, abrasions, cuts and the like
- Poor visual conspicuity
- Falling or slipping
- Electrical hazards

The personal protective equipment and clothing provided includes:

- Safety work boots
- Dust masks
- Overalls
- Hearing protection
- Safety glasses
- Fluorescents safety vests (Wardens)

Requirements include:

- Protective clothing/equipment compliant with the relevant New Zealand/Australian Standards
- Clothing/equipment shall be comfortable, correctly fitted, provide appropriate protection and allow free movement
- Clothing/equipment shall be properly maintained and, depending on the hazards present, shall be of a high-visibility type
- Damaged clothing/equipment shall be properly repaired or replaced
- Footwear shall be suitable for the type of work being performed and location where the work is being performed and, where applicable, shall provide:
 - Support to the ankles
 - Appropriate cushioning and non-slip features
 - Steel toe-caps and/or mid-sole complying with AS / NZS 2210.1:1994 Occupational Protective Footwear Part 1. Guide to Selection, Care and Use
- Hearing protection shall be worn where the noise levels are above (or likely to be above) 85dB and elimination and isolation of noise sources are not considered to be practicable. Hearing protectors shall comply with AS / NZS 1269:2005 Occupational Noise Management
- Eye protection shall be used where there is potential for injury and shall comply with AS / NZS 2161 Occupational Protective Gloves
- Respiratory protective devices (eg. masks) shall be used where there is potential harm and shall comply with AS / NZS 1715:1994 Selection, Use and Maintenance of Protective Respiratory Devices and 1716:1994 Respiratory Protective Devices

Employees should be trained in the use of and maintenance of any protective clothing and equipment they should use.

Regular inspection and maintenance or replacement of defective clothing and equipment is necessary, and suitable storage will help ensure both hygiene and ready accessibility.

Protective clothing and equipment of a personal nature, such as hearing protection or footwear, should be provided on an individual basis.

When purchasing, have regard to individual fitting requirements. Bulk purchasing of, for instance, one model of earmuff may not ensure effective protection for all staff.

The effectiveness of protective clothing and equipment should be regularly assessed by monitoring employees' health and safety in relation to the hazard.

The employer should ensure that employees use the protective clothing, and equipment provided by them so often as the circumstances for which they are provided arise.

Where there are authorised visitors to places of work where conditions require the use of particular protective clothing or equipment, then employers are responsible for ensuring that such clothing and equipment is available to visitors to the same standard as for employees.