

# Personal Protective Equipment

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>When is PPE necessary?</b></p>	<p>Using personal protective equipment (PPE) is often essential, but it is generally the last line of defense after engineering controls, work practices, and administrative controls. For example, PPE should be used if it is not feasible to reduce exposure by :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physically changing the equipment or the work environment (engineering control);</li> <li>• Changing how someone would perform their job, such as scheduling and work rotation (administrative control); or</li> <li>• Training employees to perform tasks in ways that reduce exposure to workplace hazards.</li> </ul> <p>In some cases, it may be necessary to wear PPE in addition to these controls.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>What kind of PPE is necessary?</b></p>	<p>PPE is designed to protect employees from serious workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards. Besides face shields, safety glasses, and safety shoes, protective equipment includes a variety of devices and garments such as goggles, coveralls, gloves, vests, and respirators.</p> <p>A PPE assessment should be conducted to determine the appropriate PPE for your work area or tasks. A PPE assessment is an evaluation of your work area to determine the hazards employees are exposed to and what PPE is needed to protect themselves.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Selection</b></p>	<p>Selection of PPE must be based on the hazards for which they are intended to protect against. Consider the likelihood of an accident and the seriousness of a potential accident. Select PPE to protect against any hazard that is likely to occur or has a serious injury impact if it does occur. Include employees in the PPE selection process to the extent possible. PPE that fits properly and is comfortable is more likely to be worn by employees. PPE is provided to employees at no cost, including replacement of equipment resulting from regular use.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Limitations</b></p>	<p>All PPE has limitations and does not eliminate the hazard. This is why PPE is referred to as the last line of defense and why engineering and administrative controls are utilized before the use of personal protective equipment. When selecting and wearing PPE consider the following limitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific hazards require specific PPE selections; no one material protects against every hazard</li> <li>• PPE may restrict movement or dexterity</li> <li>• PPE may restrict field of vision</li> <li>• Communication may be difficult</li> <li>• PPE must be maintained properly to be effective</li> <li>• When contaminated, PPE must be changed</li> <li>• PPE may cause the user to overheat</li> </ul>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Care, maintenance, &amp; storage</b></p>	<p>Inspect and clean your PPE after each use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPE must be clean and free from cracks, tears, and other defects</li> <li>• Immediately replace damaged or defective PPE</li> <li>• Store PPE in a relatively contaminant-free environment, container, or cabinet</li> <li>• Discard single-use PPE (e.g. ear plugs, face masks)</li> </ul>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Training</b></p>	<p>Employees who are required to wear PPE must be trained on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to use PPE properly</li> <li>• When PPE is necessary</li> <li>• They type of PPE required for the work area or task</li> <li>• Understanding the limitations of PPE</li> <li>• How to put on, adjust, wear, and take off PPE</li> <li>• How to maintain and store PPE</li> </ul>