



Personal Protective Equipment Fact Sheet

What is personal protective equipment?

Personal protective equipment, or 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. PPE includes a variety of devices and garments such as face shields, safety glasses and goggles, hard hats, safety shoes, coveralls, gloves, high visibility vests, earplugs, and respirators.

What must my employer do to provide proper PPE?

Your employer must assess your workplace to determine if hazards are present that require the use of PPE. If such hazards are present, your employer must select PPE and require you to use it, communicate the PPE selection decisions, and provide PPE that fits you properly. In most cases your employer is also required to pay for all of your PPE. Your employer must also train you so you know the following:

- How to use PPE properly,
- When PPE is necessary,
- What kind of PPE is necessary,
- The limitations of PPE in protecting you from injury,
- How to put on, adjust, wear and remove PPE properly, and
- How to maintain PPE properly.

Are there NCDOL standards for personal protective equipment?

Yes, the following are standards NCDOL has adopted for PPE:

- **29 CFR 1910 Subpart I** – for general industry
- **29 CFR 1915 Subpart I** – for shipyards
- **29 CFR 1915 Subpart I** – for marine terminals
- **29 CFR 1926 Subpart C and E** – for construction industry

Where can I find additional information?

Please review our **Personal Protective Equipment Subject Index** page.