



COMPLIANCE TIP

Personal Protective Equipment

OVERVIEW

The use of Protective Equipment is a major part of all effective safety programs. It should be understood that it is the ultimate responsibility of the employer to ensure the availability, maintenance and use of protective equipment even when employees are required to provide their own.

Federal regulations require that eye and face protection be provided when possible injury may be prevented by their use. The OSHA regulations regarding eye and face protection is based on the American National Standard Z87.1. It is recommended that all affected employers obtain a copy of this informative standard. Following the ANSI guidelines and the manufacturer's instructions will assist management in establishing an effective eye and face protection program.

OSHA requires the use of hard hats, safety shoes and other protective clothing whenever injury can be prevented. Many of the performance requirements for protective clothing are based on ANSI standards

OSHA also has specific regulations that address occupational noise exposure. Occupational noise should be controlled through engineering and/or administrative controls. If acceptable limits cannot be achieved through these controls a hearing conservation program must be developed and implemented. This includes the monitoring of the workplace and the periodic audiometric testing for all affected workers.

The need for personal protective equipment should be based on the results of a hazard assessment. The assessment will identify hazards and devices needed to control the hazards. Employers should select devices and clothing based on the specific hazards. All workers must be trained to recognize hazards and must know how to select, inspect, use, and maintain protective devices and clothing.

REGULATIONS

General Industry	29 CFR 1910.133	Eye and Face Protection
	29 CFR 1910.151(c)	Medical and First Aid
	29 CFR 1910.252(c)	Welding, Cutting, and Brazing
	29 CFR 1910.95	Occupational Noise Exposure

Construction Industry	29 CFR 1926.102	Eye and Face Protection
	29 CFR 1926.353	Welding
	29 CFR 1926.52	Occupational Noise Exposure

ACTION PLANS

Action Plan for Eye and Face Protection

- Conduct a hazard assessment. Identify hazardous conditions and operations in the workplace that could result in an eye or face injury. Identify controls and/or protective device that will control the hazard. Identify limitations of the controls and devices.
- Management must develop, implement and enforce policies that require the use, inspection, and maintenance of the protective devices. These policies should appear in your written company safety program.
- Select protective devices. Protective equipment must be selected for specific applications. The degree of protection provided by the devices should exceed the hazard. All protective devices should meet the ANSI Standard and should be properly marked by the manufacturer to identify compliance.



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- Managers, supervisors and workers must be trained on the hazards present in the work-area and in the proper selection, fitting, use and maintenance of the protective devices. Document and record the training.
- Provide protective device to workers. Record the issuance of the devices.
- Provide supplies and equipment needed to maintain the equipment. The manufacturer's instructions should be available and closely followed.
- Routinely inspect the work-area to ensure that protective devices are available, in good condition and used by the workers.

Action Plan for Hearing Protection

- Begin a noise monitoring program based on complaints from employees or conditions which make normal conversation difficult. Call on your workers compensation insurance provider to assist you performing dosimeter tests.
- Implement engineering or administrative controls to reduce noise levels below 85 db (time weighted average) If levels are reduced below 85 db (time weighted average) no further action is necessary other than periodic monitoring to insure levels remain below this level. Also ensure that impact noises are below 130 db.
- General Industry Employers must develop and implement a Hearing Conservation Program when noise levels are above 85 db. Construction Industry Employers must develop and implement a Hearing Conservation Program when noise levels are above 90 db.
- Management must develop, implement and enforce policies that require the use, inspection, and maintenance of protective devices.
- Select protective devices for specific applications. The degree of protection provided should exceed the hazard. All protective devices should meet the applicable standards and be properly marked by the manufacturer to identify compliance.
- Managers, supervisors and workers must be trained on the hazards present in the work-area and in the proper selection, fitting, use and maintenance of protective devices. Document and record the training.
- Provide protective devices to workers. Record the issuance of protective devices.
- Provide supplies and equipment needed to maintain protective devices. The manufacturer's instructions should be available and closely followed.
- Routinely inspect the work-area to ensure that protective devices are available, in good condition and used by the workers.

Action Plan for Personal Protective Clothing

- Conduct a hazard assessment. Identify hazardous conditions and operations in the workplace. Identify controls and/or protective clothing that will control the hazard. Identify limitations of the controls and clothing.
- Management must develop, implement and enforce policies that require the use, inspection, and maintenance of protective clothing.



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- Select protective clothing for specific applications. The degree of protection provided should exceed the hazard. All protective clothing should meet the applicable standards and be properly marked by the manufacturer to identify compliance.

Managers, supervisors and workers must be trained on the hazards present in the work-area and in the proper selection, fitting, use and maintenance of protective clothing. Document and record the training.

- Provide protective device to workers. Record the issuance of the devices.
- Provide supplies and equipment needed to maintain protective clothing. The manufacturer's instructions should be available and closely followed.
- Routinely inspect the work-area to ensure that protective clothing is available, in good condition and used by the workers.

Materials to assist you in addressing these requirements can be found in the eSafetyLine Safety Software. The application provides compliance guides, training guides, checklists, model documents and training materials. The software also provides a data base and report generator to assist you in meeting the recordkeeping and reporting requirements of the standard.