

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is required on all working sites and includes safety hard hats (not bump hats), safety shoes, goggles, protective clothing and gloves.

Before any PPE is issued, various detailed aspects of notification and investigation should already have taken place. Examples of notification and investigation include:

- information extracted from company pre-tender and standard health and safety documentation
- risk assessments
- location assessment
- arrangements for storage of materials
- safety critical elements associated with the location
- the status and condition of existing services
- health and safety information for issue to the client / occupier
- the appointment of the works management team
- the highlighting of safety critical phases, tasks, processes and operations
- programming and coordination
- identification of restrictions and limitations.

The aim of the risk assessment is to reduce the amount of minor, major and fatal injuries. The use of PPE should only be considered when it is not possible for an employer to guarantee individuals a 100% safe working environment.

You should know what checks to carry out of personal protective equipment. For example:

- Overalls and safety helmets: check for holes or general damage.
- Safety hand and footwear: gloves should not be soaked in oil.
- Eye, face and ear protection: the padding around the ear defenders should be in good condition.
- Barrier cream and cleansing soaps: make sure the correct type is in use.