

SafeWork SA

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Personal Protective Equipment

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is your last line of defence against workplace hazards. It does not eliminate risk but can reduce the severity of injury. For example, a helmet may lessen a head injury in a quad bike incident, but it won't prevent the incident itself.

Mandatory Use

PPE is mandatory in certain tasks—such as respiratory protection for asbestos removal and spray painting. Always aim to eliminate or substitute hazards first. PPE should only be used when other controls are not sufficient.

PCBU Responsibilities

As a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU), you must:

- Provide PPE to workers unless already supplied by another PCBU.
- Ensure training is provided to workers and visitors, on correct use, cleaning, and storage of PPE.
- Cover the costs of PPE.

Worker Involvement & Training

- Involve workers in selecting PPE.
- Provide clear instruction and training on safe and correct use.

PPE Requirements

Ensure PPE:

- Is effective and appropriate for the hazard.
- Meets required standards and is readily available.
- Fits the worker without causing discomfort or risk.
- Is compatible with other PPE being worn.
- Is inspected before use, cleaned, and stored in a dry, dust free environment.

Maintenance

PPE must be:

- Clean and hygienic.
- Stored correctly.
- Repaired or replaced if damaged or ineffective.

Refer to the manufacturer's instructions and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for correct PPE selection and maintenance—especially when handling chemicals.

Basic PPE Kit

It is recommend to keep the following on hand:

- P2 respirators (e.g. for grain handling)
- Goggles, gloves and PVC apron (chemical handling)
- Respirators with appropriate filters
- Face shield, gauntlet gloves, apron (welding)
- Wet weather gear, coveralls, steel-capped boots
- Eye and hearing protection, safety glasses, face shields and earmuffs.

Note: No exemptions. PPE must be worn—**even for short tasks.**





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