



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)



Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Applications) Regulations 2003-2007

Part V of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Applications) Regulations 2003-2007 requires that the employer provides PPE to employees where risks cannot be controlled by other measures. Priority should always be given to eliminating the risk at source or minimising it through technical or organisational measures. PPE and RPE should only be used:

As a short-term measure before controls are implemented

1. Where pre-contact control technology is not available
2. Where pre-contact controls are inadequate
3. During activities such as maintenance, clean-up and repair where pre-contact controls are not feasible or effective
4. During emergency situations

In general, the regulations stipulate that the employer must ensure that the PPE or RPE provided is appropriate for the risk involved, fits the wearer correctly, is maintained in good condition, and complies with the relevant European Directives. Workers must also be trained in the proper use of these items.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) is worn by a worker to minimise exposure to occupational hazards. It includes items such as face shields, safety glasses, hard hats and safety shoes, but also covers a variety of devices and garments such as goggles, coveralls, gloves, vests, hearing protectors and respirators.

The selection of the appropriate equipment is based on the hazards anticipated or recognised in the workplace.

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