

# SAFETY TALK PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment, also known as PPE is worn when there is a hazard present that could cause serious workplace injuries. PPE is a legislative requirement to be used by a person to minimize the risks to a person's health and safety. It is designed to protect employees by reducing their exposure to chemical, biological, and physical hazards. When other workplace exposure control measures do not completely manage the risk, PPE must be enforced and used by workers.

## Types of PPE

- Hearing protection
- Skin and body protection
- Face and Eye
- Respiratory



## PPE selection

For PPE to be most effective when the worker is wearing it, the following factors need to be considered.

- Identify the potential hazards and the potential exposure
- Must be suitable for the nature of the work
- PPE must be a suitable size, fit, and comfortable to wear
- If you wear multiple garments of PPE, they must be compatible with other PPE
- Must meet industry standards (RPE)
- Any new risks associated with wearing PPE must be identified and managed

## Maintenance & Storage

- For respiratory protection that has a tight-fitting seal, fit testing should be conducted to ensure the correct fit and selection
- Training must be completed on how to put on a take off all PPE, and how to maintain the respirator if used.
- For hearing protection, ensure it provides appropriate protection and is wearers know how to wear the hearing protection and it is fitted correctly.
- Think about who is responsible for PPE maintenance
- How PPE will be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- Record the expiry date or the date the next inspection is due
- Cleanliness of PPE (washing and storing)
- Checking and changing filters in RPE
- Checking for damage or defects – repair or replace damaged PPE or RPE