



**Generic Risk Assessment  
USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

<p><b>Activity:</b> Any activity where personal protective equipment is needed to control risks.</p>	
<p><b>Significant hazards / risks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exposure to hazard PPE is supposed to protect against: through unsuitable PPE, incorrect wearing or fit, non availability of PPE or PPE in poor condition</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Who could be harmed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employees</li> <li>Visitors</li> <li>Pregnant Women*</li> <li>Young people (smaller frame may affect fit)*</li> <li>Those with features/characteristics that may affect good fit (e.g. beards, glasses)*</li> <li>Agency workers</li> </ul>	<p><i>*Refer to Additional Control Measures section for further advice on these areas.</i></p>
<p><b>Control measures which should be in place:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal protective equipment only used as a last resort, where risks cannot be controlled further by other means (e.g. use of a safer substance, local exhaust ventilation, using procedures that minimise the risk of spills and splashes, or controlling noise levels at source).</li> <li>Personal protective equipment is a good fit for users. The range of PPE available is of an appropriate size and fit for all those it is supplied for.</li> <li>Where several pieces of PPE are worn simultaneously, it is ensured they are compatible and do not affect fit.</li> <li>Employees consulted on choice of equipment and, account is taken of their preference and comfort (without compromising standard of protection required).</li> <li>All personal protective equipment CE marked to show that it complies with the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 2002.</li> <li>Risk assessments or health and safety standards and codes of practice identify and specify the standard of personal protective equipment appropriate for the task. (Refer to <u>Guidance on the Selection of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</u> for further information. Assessments are reviewed regularly to take account of changes to standards and PPE available.</li> <li>Where assessment has identified that personal protective equipment is needed to control health and safety risks, it's wearing is enforced.</li> <li>Disposable equipment is disposed of after use and not reused</li> <li>Equipment is kept clean and stored safely. (Where equipment is used by several users, it is cleaned (e.g. using hygiene sprays or wipes) to prevent cross infection).</li> <li>Regular checks made to ensure equipment readily available and in good condition.</li> <li>Employees are aware of their responsibility to take reasonable care of PPE, report losses or defects, and who to report losses and defects to.</li> </ul>	



- Visitors and observers must also wear personal protective equipment, if they are close enough to the hazard to be affected by it.
- Where agency workers or self employed people are hired to carry out work, they are informed of the standard of PPE required and agreement is reached on who will provide the PPE prior to taking up the position.

**Competence Requirement:**

Anyone using PPE is must be made aware of why it is needed, when it is to be used, repaired or replaced and its limitations (emphasizing that wearing the wrong type of PPE, or PPE that is damaged or ill fitting will expose the employee to the hazard). Certain PPE will need instruction on how to ensure correct fit.

**Additional Control Measures: Hints / tips for what needs to be considered as part of local /specific assessment:**

The standard of protection required for the task should be recorded in the generic or local risk assessment, as appropriate. Refer to Guidance on the Selection of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for advice on selection.

**Unusual fit requirements:** If it is not possible to find suitable personal protective equipment for an individual, the risk to the individual will need to be controlled in other ways (e.g. reducing length of exposure, reallocating tasks). NB: The requirements for a CE mark may be relaxed to enable PPE to be customised to fit an employee with a disability, however such adaptations should be made by a competent person / organisation in accordance with HSE Guidance on PPE.

**Vision impaired employees:** Where prescription safety spectacles are required, the cost should be met by the employer. Where goggles are needed, they should be able to be worn over the employee's spectacles without affecting fit. Alternatively a face shield may be necessary.

**New and expectant mothers:** Expansion of a pregnant workers girth and swelling of her hands and feet may make protective equipment difficult or uncomfortable to wear. This may make it ineffective or reduce the mobility/dexterity of the worker. Where possible provide alternative personal protective equipment. If suitable personal protective equipment is not available, offer alternative work or suspend the employee on paid leave. (Refer to New and Expectant Mothers Guidance Document for further guidance).

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION LOCALLY****Establishment / Team:**

Assessed by (print): JONATHAN TEE

Date: 26-9-17

**Local Assessment (Refer to Hints and Tips for guidance)**

Richard McAdam took over 2021  
(Site Manager)

<b>Date reviewed:</b>	26-9-17	10-12-20	Apr 21	Aug 22	Aug 23
<b>Initials:</b>	J.T	J.T	RJM	RJM	RJM