

# Personal Protective Equipment Assessment and Selection Guide

OSHA requires employers to assess their workplace to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). This document is to assist you in making the required assessment.

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It is recommended that a workplace walk-through be made using this document as a guide to assess all areas of the company to identify sources of hazards to workers and co-workers. Use as many copies of this document as necessary to complete all areas of your company.

**Area being assessed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of assessment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Person performing assessment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes    No    Potential Hazard:**

**IMPACT** — (are there sources of motion, such as machinery or processes where any movement of tools, machine elements or particles could exist, or movement of personnel that could result in collision with stationary objects?)

If you checked yes, list the types of injuries and the seriousness of the potential injuries:

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**PENETRATION** — (are there sharp objects which might pierce feet or cut the hands?)

If you checked yes, list the types of injuries and the seriousness of the potential injuries:

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**COMPRESSION** — (are there sources of rolling or pinching objects which could crush the feet?)

If you checked yes, list the types of injuries and the seriousness of the potential injuries:

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**Yes**

**No**

**Potential Hazard:**

**CHEMICAL** — (are there any chemical exposures?)

If you checked yes, list the types of injuries and the seriousness of the potential injuries:

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**HEAT** — (are there any sources of high temperatures that could result in burns, eye injury or ignition of protective equipment, etc.?)

If you checked yes, list the types of injuries and the seriousness of the potential injuries:

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**HARMFUL DUST** — (are there any sources of harmful dust?)

If you checked yes, list the types of injuries and the seriousness of the potential injuries:

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**LIGHT (OPTICAL) RADIATION** — (are there sources of light radiation, i.e., welding, brazing, cutting, furnaces, heat treating, high intensity lights, etc.?)

If you checked yes, list the types of injuries and the seriousness of the potential injuries:

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**FALLING OBJECTS** — (are there potentials for dropping or falling objects that could strike a worker?)

If you checked yes, list the types of injuries and the seriousness of the potential injuries:

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**ELECTRICAL** — (are there any electrical hazards?)

If you checked yes, list the types of injuries and the seriousness of the potential injuries:

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Is there a possibility of exposure to several hazards simultaneously? Yes  No

If yes, what are they: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Selection Guidelines**

Now that you have identified the type of hazards in this area of the company and have indicated the type and seriousness of potential injuries, you need to select the proper protective equipment.

Try to identify the type of protective equipment available and what it can do, i.e., splash protection, impact protection, etc.

Match the appropriate protective equipment for each job and hazard exposure. Be sure to ensure a level of protection greater than the minimum required to protect employees from the hazards.

Fit the user with the personal protective equipment (PPE) and give instructions on care and use. Be sure to make your employees aware of all warning labels for and limitations of their PPE.

Use the specific training guides and inspection forms to assist you.

For additional information on OSHA requirements, see Personal Protective Equipment articles in the News Archive.