

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

An employer's obligation regarding the use of personal protective equipment at the workplace is based upon the general duty of care provisions of the OHS Act and a requirement to conduct an assessment of specific needs relating to the nature of the workplace and work activities of employees. The OHS Regulations require other more effective means to be utilized to reduce risk, where practicable, minimizing a reliance on PPE. The regulations require almost all types of PPE to comply with relevant Australian Standards.

Industry Standards

The regulations do not generally specify the type of protective equipment or locations which require the use of protective equipment (other than the use of helmets on construction sites where there is a risk of being struck by falling objects). However, general industry standards are as follows:

Workshops at Construction Sites

- Safety footwear
- Long sleeve shirt and trousers
- Safety glasses
- Hearing protection

Construction/ Building Sites

- Safety footwear for site personnel (and enclosed footwear for visitors)
- Safety helmets (as required, but generally around mobile plant or slung loads, or where other personnel are working overhead)
- Shirts with Sleeves
- Hearing protection (as required)
- Eye protection (as required)
- High visibility vests/shirts