

Guidance: Part 6

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE is equipment that will protect the user against health or safety risks at work. It can include, for example, safety helmets, gloves, eye protection, high-visibility clothing, safety footwear and safety harnesses. It also includes respiratory protective equipment (RPE).

Even where control measures are put in place such as engineering controls and safe operating procedures, some hazards may remain that can cause injury such as skin injuries from contact with hazardous materials. In these cases, personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed to reduce the risk.

However, personal protective equipment should be used only as a last resort after all other control measures have been considered and found to be ineffective in controlling the risks. All PPE must comply with the relevant British and European Standards.

Eye protection and a lab-coat should always be worn when in a laboratory such as Chemistry or Biology where wet work is actively being carried out.