

PPE: the last line of defence

PPE protects you when hazards cannot be eliminated or engineered out. It only works if it is the right type, fits, and is in good condition.

Key points

- Hierarchy of controls: eliminate or reduce the hazard first, then use PPE for what remains.
- Head and eye protection must meet the standards named in the Regulation (for example CSA Z94.1 or ANSI Z89.1 for head protection, and CSA Z94.3 or ANSI Z87.1 for eye protection).
- Inspect PPE before each use. Damaged items come out of service.
- PPE must fit and work with the other equipment you wear, such as glasses with a respirator, or a hard hat with hearing protection.
- Workers must be instructed in the correct use, limits and care of their PPE, and must use it as trained.
- Report broken or missing PPE right away. Do not improvise.

Ask the crew

- What hazard is each piece of PPE on this job protecting us from?
- Who checks PPE condition before the shift?
- Does anyone have PPE that doesn't fit?

Where this comes from

OHS Regulation, Part 8 (PPE), including s. 8.11 head protection and s. 8.14 eye protection (Part 8 Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment) <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation/part-08-personal-protective-clothing-and-equipment>

Your site's own procedures and the equipment manufacturer's instructions always apply. This sheet is general information, not legal advice.

Sign-off sheet

Date: _____ Location: _____ Presented by: _____

Name (print)	Signature	Date