

Program Profile Series

Number Nineteen



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

SCOPE - The employer is required to assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment.

AUTHORITY/REFERENCE - OSHA 29 CFR 1910.132



ACCOUNTABILITY - Employers are responsible for identifying the workplace hazards and selecting the appropriate PPE for the identified hazard. Such assessments shall be done in the form of a written certification.

NOTE: PPE should only be used after all engineering controls, substitution methods, and administrative controls have been exhausted.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS - These elements need to be addressed to ensure safety in the workplace.

1. Hazard assessment-Survey the workplace to determine the hazards that may exist.
2. Equipment selection-Select and have each affected employee use the types of PPE that will protect them from the hazards identified in the hazard assessment. Communicate the selection decisions to each affected employee and select PPE that properly fits them.
3. Verify the hazard assessment has been done through a written certification that contains the following:
 - a. Workplace(s) evaluated
 - b. Name of person certifying that the evaluation has been done
 - c. Date(s) of the hazard assessment
 - d. Identification as the written certification of hazard assessment

TRAINING - Training shall be provided to each employee who is required to use PPE.

Each employee shall be trained to know the following as a minimum:

1. When PPE is necessary
2. What PPE is necessary
3. How to properly don, doff, adjust, and wear PPE
4. Limitations of the PPE
5. Proper care, maintenance, useful life and disposal of the PPE.

Employees must demonstrate an understanding of the training before being allowed to perform work requiring the use of PPE. Retraining shall be done when:

1. Changes in workplace render the previous training obsolete
2. Changes in the types of PPE
3. Employer believes the employee's knowledge is lacking demonstrated by improper use of the available PPE.

The employer shall verify that each affected employee has received and understood the required training through a written certification that contains:

1. Name of employee trained
2. Date(s) of training
3. Identified as certification of training

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CROSS-REFERENCING - Other programs which may be involved in the development of this program are Respirator Program, Hazard Communication Program, Laboratory Chemical Program, Spill Response Program, Hearing Conservation Program, and Confined Space Program.

RESPONSIBILITY - Who is going to see that the program is developed and implemented including creating and conducting the training.

This series has been designed to provide the basic information necessary to develop written programs and appropriate training as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. They are not intended to be or become a written program. They are a guideline for the creation of a program specific to a company