

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I know whether to wear black or green rubber gloves while handling the chemicals at work?

The person or group that conducts the PPE hazard assessment will examine the types of chemicals you handle and determine which type of glove provides the best protection. This information should be included in your training program. Unfortunately, sometimes there is no one “best” glove, and you may need to wear two pairs.

Do regulations allow clip-on side shields?

Yes, as long as they meet the minimum standards established by ANSI.

What are the marks on safety glasses?

All industrial safety glasses must have the manufacturer’s mark on them. The manufacturer is required to make sure they meet ANSI requirements for protective eyewear.

Where can I get a list of approved suppliers for the PPE I need?

You can find some certified equipment listings at the Safety Equipment Institute’s website.

I have an allergy to latex gloves. I get rashes every time I wear them. Are there good alternatives to use?

Nitrile gloves are an alternative. The advantages of nitrile are that they are more durable and resistant to a greater variety of chemicals and allow excellent dexterity for the worker. Another alternative is a barrier cream designed to protect skin from chemical assaults such as acids. This cream puts a barrier between the skin and the glove. You should always consult a physician to see what is right for you.

I saw a worker whose glove was caught in a machine and his finger was nearly cut off before the machine could be stopped. Shouldn't my employer protect me from this hazard?

OSHA requires that your employer protect you by installing guards on machinery so that your hands or gloves cannot enter the area of moving or rotating machinery. Chances are the equipment guards of this particular machine were not installed, were improperly removed, or were incorrectly adjusted.

Won't steel-toed shoes hurt my feet or cut off my toes if something really heavy falls on them?

All safety-toed shoes and boots are tested to meet the ANSI requirements for safety. The steel-toed caps are designed to take the blow of something falling on your feet, thereby protecting your toes, not crushing them.

When are wristlets worn?

Employees wear wristlets to improve the support of their wrist during certain manual handling and repetitive motion jobs, and to prevent chemicals from seeping into their sleeves when working with some chemicals.