

Combined equipment:

It is particularly important that equipment that provides protection against different effects is coordinated. Despite technical and organizational measures, employees are dependent on several PPE for many activities at the same time - for example, on construction sites. Both head and foot protection as well as hearing and hand protection are part of the basic equipment. In such cases, hearing protection muffs instead of a headband require a holder intended for the industrial safety helmet. The protective goggles, on the other hand, must not interfere with the tight fit of the earpiece pads and the brim of the safety helmet must not uncomfortably press against the edge of the protective goggles.



Risk - Safety

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SGU - Action Plan 2016



Personal Protective Equipment

Focus

Personal Protective Equipment:

"The best protection is just good enough"

What is a PPE and who needs one at work?

PPE stands for personal protective equipment. This includes all clothing and tools that employees can wear at the body, and which help to reduce the identified hazards to the lowest possible residual risk.

There is corresponding equipment for almost all types of dangerous work.

Who ultimately needs what equipment, the employers determine. For this, we use the STOP principle. (see at the right side)

According to that, PPE are the last protective measure to choose. There are three categories for the equipment. These are classified into low hazard potential (e.g. gloves for gardening or light footwear), medium risk potential (e.g. safety helmets or safety shoes) and severe hazard potential. The latter concerns all deadly dangers or damage to health, which cannot be undone (e.g. respiratory protective devices, fall protection devices)



The STOP principle:



PPE from the point of view of the company:

Before the employees receive their equipment, the company must evaluate whether the protective clothing really protects against the danger to be warded off. In addition, the clothing must also be ergonomic and fit well. The wearing comfort as well as the correct marking are important points.

The name of the manufacturer or supplier, type specification or model number as well as the size specification must be recognizable. As confirmation of the safety-related standards (which are determined by the European Union), the CE marking.

The company also has to ensure that the PPE is available to the employees who need it for their work. The company also has to bear the costs for them.



Instructions:

Another obligation of the contractor is to instruct the employees in the use of the protective equipment. An instruction should not happen only once concerning this topic. At least once a year, the equipment should be the topic, so that no erroneous handling creeps in. If a new PPE is provided, direct instruction is essential.

When handling the equipment, it is worth training the employees both theoretically and with practical exercises.

The instruction includes on the one hand an explanation on how the PPE should be worn and the way the individual user size can be adjusted. On the other hand, it should be clarified when exactly they need to be replaced. In addition, it must be informed about possible damage to the equipment.

Obligations of the employee:

In addition to all the obligations that companies have, there are also

obligations required from the employees themselves. The DGUV (German Statutory Accident Insurance) Rule 1 "Principles of Prevention" states: If employees are asked to wear PPE, they must follow it.

It is important that the protective clothing is accepted. It must not hinder the work and must be ergonomic. To ensure this, manufacturers are constantly developing the products both qualitatively and visually.

