



Compliance Note

May 2007

PPE Guidelines

HWC-006

This information is for your use and as a way of providing consistent information. This information is based on current UCDHSC Policy, and/or Federal, State or local regulatory requirements.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The type of PPE needed to perform a given task is determined by the potential hazards associated with a task or job position. Thus, it is important to understand the nature of hazards prior to selecting appropriate PPE. The following is a brief description of different types of PPE and general guidelines regarding when such PPE may be needed.

CHEMICAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING (CPC)

CPC includes all items of clothing primarily intended to prevent chemical contact with the skin - these include gloves, coveralls, pants, jackets, and boots.

CPC is generally constructed of plastic and elastomeric materials. Typically each chemical interacts with a given plastic or elastomer in a relatively unique manner. Three important factors to bear in mind when considering CPC's are:

1. There is no such thing as an "impermeable" plastic or rubber clothing. Given enough contact time, most chemicals will penetrate or degrade most materials.
2. For a given clothing material type (e.g., Nitrile, PVC, Latex, Butyl Rubber, etc.), chemical resistance can vary significantly from product to product.
3. For certain chemicals or combinations of chemicals, there is no commercially available glove or clothing that will provide more than an hour's protection following contact. In these cases, it is recommended that clothing be changed as soon as it is possible to do it safely after any contact with the chemical or chemical mixture.

EYE/FACE PROTECTIVE WEAR

It is the policy of UCDHSC that eye protective devices be worn while in areas or performing jobs that may result in a chemical splash to the eye or where there is the potential for physical damage to the eye. It is the responsibility of faculty and staff to ensure that all employees and students under their responsibility are in full compliance with the provisions of this policy.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION



University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center

Environmental Health and Safety Department

The purpose of a protective mask or respirator is to protect the respiratory system from inhalation of hazardous contaminants or to supply fresh breathing air in the absence of a breathable atmosphere. The type of respirator used is dependent upon the particular environment and contaminants involved. Respirators provide protection either by removing contaminants from the air before it is inhaled or by supplying an independent source of breathable air.

Respirators are not to be used by UCDHSC employees unless they have consulted with the UCDHSC EH&S Industrial Hygiene Department to ensure the selection of the proper respiratory protection device for the task.

Any individual required to wear a respirator for use against known or suspected hazardous contaminants must be 1) certified by a physician as capable of wearing the respirator, 2) be fit-tested, and 3) be trained in the safe use of respiratory protection equipment.

Individual departments/divisions will be responsible for any costs associated with PPE for their employees.

To ensure the best protection of UCDHSC employees from potential contaminants, EH&S should be consulted to assist in the proper selection and use of PPE.

If there are any questions on the selection and uses of a particular type of personal protection equipment, please contact EH&S at extension 4-0345.