

BULLETIN

Hazardous Chemicals – Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Bulletins provide Regulator guidance on how compliance with the [Work Health and Safety \(National Uniform Legislation\) Act and Regulations](#) (WHS Act and Regulations) may be achieved as they provide specific information about work health and safety duties. This bulletin outlines several duties and some simple safety guidelines regarding PPE for those working with hazardous chemicals.

Legislation to consider:

- Health and safety duties in accordance with Part 2 of the WHS Act;
- Management of risks to health and safety in accordance with Part 3.1 of the WHS Regulations;
- PPE to comply with Chapter 3, Division 5, of the WHS Regulations;
- Duty to provide induction, information, training and supervision in accordance with Chapter 7, Division 7 of the WHS Regulations;
- Specific requirements for lead - Chapter 7, Part 7.2 of the WHS Regulations.



Wearing appropriate PPE can protect against injury

Did you know?

- That PPE is the last possible option for managing a hazard and PPE should only be considered if other control measures in the hierarchy of control (elimination, substitution, isolation, engineering and administrative) cannot be implemented. PPE only protects the wearer and does not control the risk at the source.

Have you:

- Read the label - Hazardous chemicals are required to be labeled, listing the specific hazards and precautionary statements in accordance with Regulation 335.
- Read the Safety Data Sheet (SDA) - Hazardous chemicals are to be supplied with an SDS which must state exposure controls and personal protection in accordance with Regulation 344.

Chemicals enter the body through:

- skin contact;
- inhalation of fumes, vapours and dusts;
- accidental ingestion, e.g. taken in with food, drink or smoke.

Below are some general guidelines for consideration:

Just buying PPE is not enough to ensure maximum protection, PPE which is not properly selected, used and maintained can be hazardous and workers must be properly trained in its selection, use and maintenance.

Always ensure that any hazardous chemicals and PPE are used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Some considerations to include when selecting, using and maintaining PPE:

- is it appropriate for the task – glasses vs. goggles vs. full face mask;

- is it suitable for the wearers physiology – does it physically fit them, can it be easily adjusted;
- does the wearer have other considerations – such as hearing aids or corrective glasses;
- PPE needs to be compatible with other PPE – respirator fits with goggles;
- using PPE may introduce other hazards – inability to grip or communicate;
- keep it clean and store it appropriately – do not cross contaminate;
- look for defects – conducting visual inspections;
- is it readily available – can it be accessed easily where and when it's needed;
- is there a disposal schedule – when to replace it.

Additional Information

NT WorkSafe has two approved Codes of Practice for further guidance on this matter:

Codes of Practice

- Managing the Risks of Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace (*awaiting adoption in the NT*)
- [Preparation of Safety Data Sheets for Hazardous Chemicals](#)

For further information please contact NT WorkSafe on 1800 019 115 or go to www.worksafe.nt.gov.au