Checklist: Choosing the Right PPE for Your Worksite

Part I: Workplace Risk Analysis
Securing proper PPE starts by identifying risks and hazards in your workplace. This will allow you to determine the specific types of equipment you need.

Potential Hazard	Is this an issue for the workplace, a specific job or a specific task? (Yes/No)	If it is an issue, are workers protected by current measures? (Yes/No/NA)
Exposure to flying particles.		
Exposure to harmful light rays.		
Exposure to water, including work around wet locations.		
Risk of workers being hard to see or detect.		
Risk of electrical shock or conduction.		
• Does this risk affect a worker's hands?		
• Does this risk affect a worker's feet?		
Risk of contact with bodily fluids or other biohazards.		
• Does this risk affect a worker's face?		
• Does this risk affect a worker's hands?		
Risk of injury from crushing and/or falling objects.		
• Does this risk affect a worker's face and/or head?		
• Does this risk affect a worker's arms and/or hands?		

Potential Hazard	Is this an issue for the workplace, a specific job or a specific task? (Yes/No)	If it is an issue, are workers protected by current measures? (Yes/No/NA)
• Does this risk affect a worker's legs and/or feet?		
Risk of injury from cuts, punctures and/or lacerations.		
• Does this risk affect a worker's face and/or head?		
• Does this risk affect a worker's arms and/or hands?		
• Does this risk affect a worker's legs and/or feet?		
Risk of contact with molten material and/or related fluids.		
• Does this risk affect a worker's face and/or head?		
• Does this risk affect a worker's arms and/or hands?		
• Does this risk affect a worker's torso?		
• Does this risk affect a worker's legs and/or feet?		

Part II: Selecting PPE

Visit manufacturers' websites or read through their catalogs to find PPE that protects against the risks you identified.

Equipment	Considerations	Answer (Yes/No/NA)
Gloves	Depending on the gloves' purpose, do they provide the appropriate ANSI rating for:	
	• Cut resistance?	
	• Puncture resistance?	
	• Abrasion resistance?	
	Are the gloves waterproof?	
	Are the gloves touchscreen compatible?	
	If used for impact protection: Do the gloves protect the proper areas while not impeding grip and other functions?	
	If used for welding: Do the gloves allow for sufficient mobility while providing heat protection?	
	If used to resist heat, are the gloves made to protect against:	
	• Dry heat?	
	• Moist heat?	
	• Thermal exposure?	
	• Atmospheric exposure?	

Equipment	Considerations	Answer (Yes/No/NA)
Eyewear	Based on the design, material and certifications, can the eyewear defend against:	
	• Flying objects and particles?	
	• Heat, sparks and splash?	
	• Acid and chemical splash?	
	• Abrasive blasting materials?	
	• Glare and stray light?	
	• Optical radiation, in moderate or large amounts?	
Headgear	Can the headgear be easily cleaned in a soap and water bath, keeping it free from bacteria?	
	Does the headgear protect against impact and penetration on the:	
	• Top of the head?	
	• Back of the head?	
	• Sides of the head?	
	As defined by CSA, or another relevant standard, does the headgear come in class:	
	• E – 20,000 volt rating	
	• G – 2,200 volt rating	
	• C – no volt rating	

Equipment	Considerations	Answer (Yes/No/NA)
Footwear	Is footwear waterproof?	
	Does footwear have a mark from CSA/ASTM that indicates protection against:	
	• Chainsaws?	
	• Electrical shock?	
	• Electrical conductivity?	
	• Metatarsal impact?	
	• Sole puncture?	
	• Static discharge?	
	• Toe impact?	
Legwear	Does legwear come in a range of sizes?	
	Are there detailed cleaning instructions, ensuring legwear doesn't shrink?	
	Does legwear allow for easy wearer mobility?	
Hi-Visibility Apparel	Is the apparel's background material red, green or yellow?	
	If Type O: Is the apparel made from at least 217 in^2 of background material?	
	If Type R: Is the apparel made from at least 775 in^2 of background material?	
	If Type P: Is the apparel made from at least 450 in^2 of background material?	
	If using retroreflective material: Does Type O apparel have at least 155 in^2 of it?	
	If using retroreflective material: Does Type R or P apparel have at least 201 in^2 of it?	