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- protective clothing
- head protection
- protective eyewear
- hearing protection
- high visibility clothing
- respiratory protection
- protective footwear
- adverse weather gear
- hand protection
- sun protection
- additional or specialised PPE, e.g. respirators.

All possible routes of entry of the hazard into the body must be taken into account when considering the PPE to be used.

## 2. General requirements for correct use of PPE

### 2.1 Signage

Mandatory PPE signage is to be displayed at the entrance to the facility denotes what PPE must be worn at all times whilst within. This is documented on an entrance door signage poster using [How to make your own Safety Hazard Poster](#)

Where additional PPE is expected to be worn inside a facility, there should be appropriate PPE signage in close proximity to these locations.

Where PPE is stored out of sight within the laboratory there should be clear signage highlighting the storage location.

The WHS guide, PPE Signs can use to help achieve this.

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PPE requirements are to be incorporated into inductions (for staff, contractors and visitors).

Persons performing work that requires PPE are to be competent in those activities and the selection, fitting, use and maintenance of the required PPE. They are also to understand any additional risks the PPE may introduce and the compensating controls in place at the workplace. For example, the use of hearing protection may limit the person's ability to hear audible warning signals so visual signals are also provided.

## **2.5 Maintenance**

All PPE must be maintained, tested and stored according to the manufacturer's requirements. The PPE must be kept in a clean, hygienic and effective condition. Cleaning  
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### 3.1 Protective Helmets

Protective helmets are worn to reduce the severity of injuries caused by objects falling onto a worker's head or the head striking against a fixed object. Protective helmets must comply with the requirements of AS/NZS 1801 Occupational Protective Helmets.

Protective helmets are not to be modified or altered unless done in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer/supplier. Any alterations shall be in accordance with the requirements of AS/NZS 1801 Occupational Protective Helmets.





- Appropriate eye protection shall be used to protect eyes from contaminated or hazardous materials or from ultraviolet light.
- Protective eyewear shall be worn unless a documented risk assessment can justify a lesser requirement.

All staff, students and visitors shall use protective eyewear where there is a risk of damage to the eyes. Sources dsos s spr fromAw ent pr32(em)-13.7 (en (l)-11.e.4 ( )0.7 n p





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- Identify all contact lens wearers working in chemical environments to supervisors to ensure that the proper risk management form is completed and the appropriate eye protection and first aid equipment is available.
- In the event of a chemical exposure, begin eye irrigation immediately and remove contact lenses as soon as practical. Do not delay irrigation while waiting for contact lens removal.
- Instruct workers who wear contact lenses to remove the lenses at the first sign of eye redness or irritation.

### 3.3.7 Laser eye protection

To ensure the correct laser eye protection is selected users must understand:

- what type of laser is to be used;
- what power and wavelength is the laser;
- whether impact resistance is required.

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detrimental effect on some gloves.

### **3.4.2 Cleaning Inspection and Maintenance**

Cleaning of gloves should be undertaken in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations. Gloves used for handling chemicals or cleaning should be rinsed in warm water prior to being taken off to remove any contaminants and dried prior to storage.

Gloves are to be inspected before and after use for signs of defects or wear:

- wear between the fingers
- swelling or shrinking
- cracking, bubbling or pinholes
- seam failure
- rips or tears

Gloves showing signs of defects are to be withdrawn from use and discarded.

Gloves must be removed before leaving the laboratory to reduce the risk of contamination to non-laboratory users.

### **3.5 Protective footwear**

Safety footwear is to be selected, used and maintained in accordance with AS2210.1 Occupational Protective footwear - Guide to selection, care and use.

Selection of the types and styles to be used at the workplace is to be determined by risk assessment.

Staff required to access construction sites are required to wear protective footwear as a minimum.

All laboratory users must wear footwear appropriate to the hazards of the laboratory. Australian Standard AS/NZS 2210 should be used to select the correct footwear. As a minimum, enclosed footwear equivalent to Type A (low shoe), Figure 3 in AS/NZS 2210.5 must be worn. Shoes made of absorbent material or woven fabric e.g. most types of joggers, runners and tennis shoes, should not be worn in laboratories where exposure to corrosives

- User formable earplugs - these are generally made from compressible material that is moulded by the user prior to insertion into the ear canal. After insertion the plug expands to form a seal on the walls of the ear canal.
- Banded earplugs - banded earplugs are usually made of soft silicone, rubber or plastic and are suspended on a headband

In determining the choice of hearing protection reference should be made to Table A1 in AS/NZS 1269.3 Occupational noise management - Part 3: Hearing protector program

<b>TABLE A1</b>	
<b>CLASS OF HEARING PROTECTOR REQUIRED</b>	
<b>L<sub>Aeq,8h</sub>, dB(A)</b>	<b>Class</b>
Less than 90	1
90 to less than 95	2
95 to less than 100	3
100 to less than 105	4
105 to less than 110	5
Greater than or equal to 110	seek specialist advice

Health and Safety personnel can provide a basic noise survey service upon request.

### 3.7



P2 classification is for protection against mechanically and thermally-generated particulates, mists, aerosols (including biological aerosols) and fumes.

Class P3 filters are intended for use against all particulates including highly toxic materials. However for non-powered respirators, a class P3 classification can only be assigned where a class P3 filter is used with a **full** face piece. *[If a P3 filter is used with a half face respirator then a maximum rating of P2 is obtained]*

**Note:**

Air purifying equipment for self-rescue, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and Compressed Gas RPE are specialist items for use in specific circumstances and are not covered by this guide. Expert advice on selection, use and maintenance is required.

**b) SUPPLIED AIR RESPIRATORS**

These respirators are used where there is a potential for an Oxygen deficient environment or if there is a concentration of toxic gas which is immediately dangerous to health. Supplied-air respirators supply clean air from either an ai



The adequacy of personal protective equipment must be regularly assessed to ensure that personal injuries are not occurring.

## 5 Definitions

**Hierarchy of Risk Controls:** The method of addressing and implementing risk control measures in order of importance, which is:

1. Elimination: Remove the hazard
2. Substitution: Replace with a less hazardous substance or activity
3. Engineering: Examples: install guards on machinery, provide fume extraction

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