

### What?

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is defined as ‘all equipment (including clothing affording protection against the weather) which is intended to be worn or held by a person at work to protect the wearer against one or more risks to health or safety.’**
- **PPE includes helmets, visors, goggles, ear defenders, gloves, gauntlets, face masks, footwear etc. and is intended to minimise the severity of the injury when things go wrong.**



### Why?



- PPE does not prevent accidents but goes a long way to minimise their effect by reducing the severity of the potential injury and is normally used when there is no other way to eliminate or control the risk.
- To allow the right type of PPE to be chosen, you should carefully consider the different hazards in the workplace. This will enable you to assess which types of PPE are suitable to protect against the hazard and for the job to be done.
- An employer has an obligation to provide suitable protective equipment which has a mark to verify it meets appropriate standards (i.e. CE marking).

### Do ✓

- ✓ Choose the right PPE for the task
- ✓ Visually inspect it prior to use
- ✓ Wear the PPE before commencing the task
- ✓ Continue to wear or use the equipment while the risk is still present
- ✓ Report any loss or damage
- ✓ Encourage others to wear the correct PPE
- ✓ Store equipment in a safe place when not in use
- ✓ Keep your PPE clean

### Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't start work without wearing or using the correct PPE
- ✗ Don't use ill-fitting or damaged PPE
- ✗ Don't remove or stop using PPE when the danger is still present
- ✗ Don't take any chances - even for a few moments
- ✗ Don't leave PPE lying around
- ✗ Don't use safety helmets once their shelf life is up (printed on the inside of helmet)

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