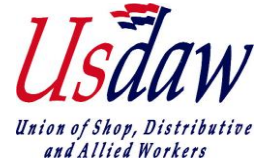




Guide To Personal Protective Equipment Regulations



[The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations \(PPE\) 1992](#) came into effect on 1st January 1993. In the regulations PPE means all equipment (including clothing affording protection against the weather) which is intended to be worn or held by a person at work and which protects him/her against one or more risks to his/her health and safety, and any addition or accessory designed to meet that objective.

Regulation 4 requires that; *‘Every employer shall ensure that suitable personal protective equipment is provided to his employees who may be exposed to a risk to their health or safety while at work except where and to the extent that such risk has been adequately controlled by other means which are more effective’.*

PPE must only therefore be issued as a **last resort** when all other methods of controlling the risk have been implemented.

The employer must provide **suitable** PPE when the risk cannot be controlled by other means. For example if an employers risk assessment shows that workers are unavoidably working outside in inclement weather then one of the control measures must be the provision of warm/waterproof outer clothing.

Suitable: To be suitable PPE must be appropriate to the risks involved and the work done. It must take account of ergonomic factors and the state of health of the user and must fit the user. It must comply with relevant European Community Directives where they apply.

Compatibility: Where more than one item of PPE has to be worn, they must be compatible and effective when worn together.

Assessment: Before buying any PPE the employer must do a risk assessment to identify the risks which cannot be controlled by other means and to make sure that the PPE protects against those risks.

Maintenance: The employer must ensure that PPE is maintained in good repair and cleaned or replaced as often as necessary.

Accommodation: The employer must provide storage for protective equipment when it is not in use.

Training: The employer must provide staff with information, instruction and training on the risks the PPE is intended to avoid, the use of the PPE and steps the employees are expected to take to maintain the PPE.

Use: The employer must take steps to ensure that PPE provided is properly used.

Employees’ duties: Employees must use PPE as directed and must report any loss or obvious defect to the employer.

Paying for PPE: [Section 9 of the Health and Safety at Work Act](#) prevents the employer from charging for anything supplied as a requirement of health and safety legislation. This means that any PPE required under these Regulations be provided free of charge.

