



PPE HAZARD ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.132 requires employers to assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, which require using personal protective equipment (PPE). Also known as a PPE hazard assessment, this evaluation helps to identify risks to workers and ways to protect them with appropriate PPE.

If the evaluation determines that PPE is required, employers must train employees to inspect, adjust, and use the protection appropriately.

HEAD PROTECTION (§1910.135)

Is there a potential danger of your employees bumping or striking their head on overhead objects, including exposed pipes, beams, and racking/shelving?

Yes No

Do your employees have contact with electrical hazards, including power lines, wires, and components?

Yes No

Is there a risk of falling objects, such as tools, boxes, and suspended loads; or flying objects that could strike the top or side of the head?

Yes No

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, CONSIDER THESE TYPES OF [HEAD PROTECTION](#):

- Hard hat
- Protective helmet
- Bump cap



DID YOU KNOW:

- Hard hats should be immediately inspected if subject to an impact.
- Hard hats do not have a predetermined service life, though some manufacturers may choose to include this information.
- Hard hats should be inspected before each use and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

EYES AND FACE (§1910.133)

ARE YOUR EMPLOYEES EXPOSED TO:

Airborne dust or particles?

Yes No

Blood spatter or other potentially infectious material?

Yes No

Extreme heat/cold, molten metal, and/or sparks?

Yes No

Flying objects?

Yes No

Gases, sprays, mists?

Yes No

Intense light or other injurious optical radiation?

Yes No

Other physical or chemical irritants?

Yes No

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS,
CONSIDER THESE TYPES OF EYE AND FACE PROTECTION:

- Face shield
- Safety glasses with side shields
- Safety goggles
- Shading/filter lens for protection against radiant energy



DID YOU KNOW:

- Specialty face shields offer hazard-specific protection against arc flash, heat and radiation, and welding activities.
- Eye protection can come equipped with anti-scratch, anti-static, anti-fog, and mirror coatings.
- If prescription eyewear is necessary, it must be incorporated into the eye protection or worn under the eye protection.

HEARING PROTECTION (§1910.95(i))

Are your employees exposed to loud noises from machines and/or tools?

Yes No

Is your work environment loud (e.g., employees have difficulty holding a conversation in a normal voice; need to shout to be heard; mention ringing in the ears)?

Yes No

Do your employees use punch or brake press machines?

Yes No

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, CONSIDER THESE TYPES OF [HEARING PROTECTION](#):

- Earplugs (including formable foam, pre-molded, and canal caps)
- Protective earmuffs



DID YOU KNOW:

- ➔ Noise exposure can be intermittent or continuous. Conducting a noise evaluation will determine noise levels. Based on the results, employers may be required to administer a hearing conservation program or feasible engineering or administrative controls.
- ➔ Hearing protection must be made available to all employees exposed to an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels or greater.

HAND AND ARM PROTECTION (§1910.138)

ARE YOUR EMPLOYEES EXPOSED TO:

Blood or other potentially infectious material?

Yes No

Chemicals that might irritate the skin?

Yes No

Electrical hazards, including power lines, wires, and components?

Yes No

Extreme heat/cold, molten metal, and/or sparks?

Yes No

Tools or other materials that might scrape, bruise, or cut?

Yes No

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, CONSIDER THESE TYPES OF [HAND](#) AND [ARM](#) PROTECTION:

- Gloves
- Protective sleeves



DID YOU KNOW:

Many types of gloves are available to protect against different hazards. Factors that may influence the selection of protective gloves include:

- Type of chemicals handled,
- Nature of contact (total immersion, splash, etc.),
- Duration of contact,
- Area requiring protection (hand only, forearm, arm),
- Grip requirements (dry, wet, oily),
- Thermal protection,
- Size and comfort, and
- Abrasion/resistance requirements.

BODY

Do your employees have exposure to chemicals that might irritate the skin?

Yes No

Do employees have contact with blood or other potentially infectious material?

Yes No

Do employees have contact with electrical hazards, including power lines, wires, and components?

Yes No

Do employees have contact with sharp or rough edges or tools/equipment that might scrape or cut the body?

Yes No

Do employees have exposure to extreme heat/cold, molten metal, and/or sparks?

Yes No

Do employees work near or with radiation?

Yes No

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, CONSIDER THESE TYPES OF PROTECTION:

- [AR/FR rated clothing](#)
- [Apron](#)
- Body suit
- Coveralls
- Jacket
- Welding leathers



DID YOU KNOW:

- Protective clothing should be inspected before use and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- All arc-rated (AR) clothing is flame resistant (FR), but not all flame resistant clothing is arc rated.

FEET (§1910.136)

Do employees have contact with electrical hazards, including power lines, wires, and components?

Yes No

Do employees work with heavy objects, equipment, or tools that could roll, fall onto, or strike employees' feet?

Yes No

Do employees have contact with hot, wet, or slippery surfaces?

Yes No

Do employees work with molten metal or caustics that might splash on feet or legs?

Yes No

Do employees have potential contact with sharp objects, such as nails or spikes, that could pierce the soles or uppers of ordinary shoes?

Yes No

Do employees work with highly flammable materials?

Yes No

IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, CONSIDER THESE TYPES OF PROTECTION:

- Safety shoes or boots (including chemical resistance, electrical hazard protection, metal instep/puncture resistance, metatarsal protection, steel toe protection)



DID YOU KNOW:

➔ Employers are not required to pay for non-specialty safety-toe protective footwear (including steel-toe shoes or steel-toe boots), provided that the employer permits such items to be worn off the job site.

REMEMBER...

Beyond any required PPE, employers must also evaluate hazards of such things as wearing loose clothing, jewelry, long hair, long fingernails, etc.

Anyone with the necessary skills and experience to identify hazards and select appropriate PPE can perform the PPE hazard assessment. The employer determines who performs this function, whether internal or a third party. Whoever conducts the PPE hazard assessment must also certify it as such in writing. This certification must include the name of the person certifying that the evaluation has been performed and the date(s) of the hazard assessment.

Note: This checklist is intended as a general guideline and is not all-inclusive. Respirators and fall protection are also considered PPE. However, because OSHA has specific requirements for them, they are not discussed here.



ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Robin Marth, CSP joined J. J. Keller & Associates, Inc. in 2021 as an Editor on the Environmental, Health & Safety Publishing Team. She is an experienced EHS Specialist with a demonstrated history of working in the management consulting and manufacturing industry. Robin's professional skill set includes Workplace Safety Administration, Ergonomics, Environmental Management, and Motor Vehicle/Fleet Safety. Her editorial responsibilities include researching and creating content for several publications, including Employee Safety Management Today and the OSHA Compliance for California manual. Robin holds a CSP designation from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals and is also an OSHA Outreach General Industry Trainer.

