

## 4.5 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) / Clothing

### Preamble

**This plan is not exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with any relevant site specific policy or plan.**

In accordance with Poly-Tech Industrial Services (Poly-Tech) commitment to the provision of a safe and healthy workplace, all contractors and employees will be required to use personal protective equipment and/or clothing as per the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986, OHS&W Regulations and relevant Codes of Practice.

As part of the risk assessment process Poly-Tech, in consultation with employees must identify any foreseeable risks in the workplace that may be a hazard to anyone in the place of work.

### Policy

Poly-Tech must ensure that any risks to health or safety arising out of work are eliminated or, where that is not reasonably practicable, minimized.

If it is not possible to minimize the risk by substitution, isolation or modifying a work practice, then the provision of personal protective equipment may be appropriate.

**Personal protective equipment/clothing is a last resort, if the situation(s) that creates the need for it cannot be removed. It is not a substitute for making the workplace safer.**

### Procedure

#### CONDITIONS OF USE

Any equipment or clothing must be:-

- Worn/used by the contractor/employee in the correct manner
- Comfortable, correct size and fit for the person wearing/using it
- Given to each person for exclusive use, if sharing presents a hygiene risk, the item may be sterilized after each use
- Regularly cleaned
- Maintained in good order and condition
- Stored in good order and condition

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## **INCREASED RISK OF PPE**

A Contractor or employee is not required to use or wear equipment or clothing when this would create a greater risk to health or safety.

If the wearing of Personal Protective Equipment or clothing prevents communication with others or hearing alarms, appropriate steps are to be taken to ensure the situation does not create a risk to health or safety. This may include having another person “on standby” or other visible/physical signaling system.

### **Clothing**

Overalls and protective overalls should be used to keep contaminants from soiling clothes and/or being transported outside the workplace. High visibility clothing must be worn whenever there is a risk of being struck by traffic, mobile plant or loads being shifted. Long sleeve shirts and pants may be appropriate methods for preventing excessive exposure to the sun’s harmful rays and/or to prevent injury and illness from exposure to hazardous chemicals or processes. Rings, bracelets and neck chains should not be worn on work sites because they can get caught on protruding objects.

### **Safety Helmets**

There should be signage at every entrance to the site to illustrate if the site requires persons to wear a hardhat part time/ full time. However, it is recommended that employees carry a safety helmet with them at all times on building sites and use it whenever there is a risk of any debris falling from above or otherwise striking the head, regardless of whether the site is a hard hat site or not. All persons will be required to wear safety helmets when directed to do so.

### **Eye Protection**

Appropriate eye protection must be worn by all personnel engaged in or working close of any activity which may cause eye damage eg. Abrasive blasting, power operated high speed cutting machines, use of compressed air tools, use of chemicals, acids or other corrosive substances and when signage at the site entrance indicates policy requirement. Ensure that the eye protection provided is suitable for the task to be performed.

### **Ear Protection**

In industry today one of the most common safety problems is noise. Appropriate hearing protection in the form of earplugs, or earmuffs must be worn when there is a risk of damaging hearing. Failure to take precautions against excessive noise will result in part or permanent hearing loss.

### **Sun Protection**

Whilst carrying out our work in the open and subject to the effects of ultraviolet radiation employees will be encouraged to wear long sleeved shirts and long trousers, hat, sunscreen and eye protection.

### **Respiratory Protection**

Respiratory protection must be properly used in work places where there is an atmosphere contaminated with potentially hazardous dust, fibres, mist or vapours. A dust mask should be worn on construction sites where dust producing processes are being undertaken. Handling of chemicals may require specialised respiratory equipment such as gas type cartridges or scuba. When dealing with hazardous substances such as asbestos, chemicals and glues, seek advice from the safety supervisor or someone competent in this type of work as to which type of respiratory protection is appropriate.

### **Safety Vest**

You will be required to wear a safety vest if it is requested in the site contract.

### **Safety Footwear**

Appropriate footwear in accordance with Australian Standard 2210 should be worn at all times whilst on site. If the site is wet under foot, rubber boots with a steel cap should be worn.

Any queries and or concerns should be directed to Management as a matter of urgency. Any faulty equipment should also be reported immediately as well as deliberate intent or misuse of equipment.



Steve Church  
Director

16 September 2008 - Date of Implementation