



## OSHA Final Rule on Personal Protective Equipment

**Just the Facts**  
55-005-0395



- \*\* Industrial Hygiene/Safety Personnel & Supervisors
- \*\* Revised Standards
- \*\* Design, Selection, & Use

On 6 April 1994, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a final rule revising portions of Subpart I, Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1910, that address personal protective equipment (PPE). The OSHA made corrections to the final rule on 1 July 1994.

The updated standards for PPE are designed to be more consistent with recent consensus regarding good industry practices, as reflected by the latest editions of the pertinent American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards.

The revised OSHA standards include general requirements for PPE (29 CFR 1910.132) and specific standards that set design, selection, and use requirements for eye and face, head, foot, and hand PPE (29 CFR 1910.133, 1910.135, 1910.136, and 1910.138, respectively). Specific standards for respiratory protection (29 CFR 1910.134) and electrical protective devices (29 CFR 1910.137) were not revised.

### ***New Paragraphs Added to 29, CFR 1910.132***

#### ***\*\* Hazard Assessment and Equipment Selection***

(This paragraph applies to sections 1910.133, 1910.135, 1910.136, and 1910.138. It

does not apply to sections 1910.134 and 1910.137.)

The employer shall assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present, or likely to be present, that necessitate the use of PPE. If such hazards are present, or likely to be present, the employer shall select, and have each affected employee use, the proper types of PPE that will protect the affected employee from the hazards identified in the hazard assessment.

The employer shall verify that the required workplace hazard assessment has been performed through a written certification that identifies: the workplace evaluated, the person certifying that the evaluation has been performed, the date(s) of the hazard assessment, and the document as a certification of hazard assessment.

*Concerning the new requirement for a written certification of workplace hazard assessments, it would appear that full implementation of the current Health Hazard Information Module (HHIM) would suffice.*

#### ***\*\* Defective or Damaged Equipment***

Defective or damaged PPE shall not be used.

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## **\*\* Training**

(This paragraph applies to sections 1910.133, 1910.135, 1910.136, and 1910.138. It does not apply to sections 1910.134 and 1910.137.)

Before anyone is permitted to perform work requiring the use of PPE, he or she must-

- Receive training in at least the following areas: when PPE is necessary; what PPE is necessary; how to properly don, doff, adjust, and wear PPE; the limitations of the PPE; and the proper care, maintenance, useful life and disposal of the PPE.
- Demonstrate both an understanding of the training and the skill to use the PPE properly.

*Verification of training must be through written certification that contains the name of each employee trained, the date(s) of training, and the subject of the certification.*

### **Highlights of Revised Standards**

#### **Section 19 10. 133 Eye and face protection.**

Employees shall use appropriate eye or face protection when exposed to eye or face hazards and use eye protection that provides side protection when there is a hazard from flying objects. Filter lenses having the proper shade number shall be worn for protection from injurious light radiation.

Employees who wear prescription lenses in eye-hazard areas shall use eye protection that incorporates the prescription lenses in the design, or shall wear eye protection over the prescription lenses. Eye and face PPE shall be distinctly marked to facilitate identification of the manufacturer.

#### **Section 1910. 135 Head protection.**

Each affected employee shall wear protective helmets where there is a potential for injury due to falling objects, or to reduce the risk of

electrical shock when near exposed electrical conductors that could contact the head.

#### **Section 19 10. 136 Foot protection.**

Each affected employee shall wear protective footwear where there is danger of foot injuries due to falling and rolling objects and objects piercing the sole, and where feet are exposed to electrical hazards.

#### **Section 1910.138 Hand protection.**

Employees shall use appropriate hand protection where hands are exposed to: hazards from skin absorption of harmful substances; severe cuts, lacerations, and abrasions; punctures; chemical burns; thermal burns; and harmful temperature extremes.

*Eye and face equipment, helmets, and safety shoes purchased after 5 July 1994 must comply with the most recent ANSI standard cited by OSHA or be demonstrated to be equally effective. (For eye and face equipment, head protection, and foot protective wear, the applicable ANSI standards would be ANSI Z87.1-1989, ANSI Z89.1-1986, and ANSI Z41.1-1991, respectively.)*

*The OSHA allows the continuing use of PPE purchased prior to 5 July 1994, as long as the PPE complies with the older ANSI standard specified by OSHA or has been demonstrated to be equally effective. (For eye and face equipment, head protection, and foot protective wear, the applicable ANSI standards would be ANSI Z87.1-1968, ANSI Z89.1-1969, and ANSI Z41.1-1967, respectively.) Selection of proper hand protection shall be based on PPE performance characteristics, conditions present, duration of use, and hazards (existing and potential).*