



## Section 17: Personal Protective Equipment

### 1. General Information

- 1.1 This section defines the requirements for the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to control or eliminate hazards or exposure to illness or injury.
- 1.2 Unless otherwise noted, contractors are to provide the required and needed PPE, medical clearance, and the training described in this section and are responsible for the compliance of their employees. The contractor's safety manager will make regular field inspections to verify compliance.
- 1.3 The contractor's designated safety representative will review PPE to ensure that only equipment complying with OSHA, ANSI, NIOSH, and MSHA regulations or this manual is used.
- 1.4 A contract employee who refuses to use the prescribed PPE or willfully damages this equipment will be subject to the disciplinary procedures outlined in Section 3 of this manual.
- 1.5 Contract employees must be trained on the use, inspection, care, and storage of all PPE.
- 1.6 Defective safety equipment shall be removed from service and rendered unusable.

### 2. Head, Eye, and Face Protection

- 2.1 Wearing an approved, non-conductive safety hat is mandatory in construction areas and designated site areas at all times. Refer to ANSI Z89.1, *Safety Requirements for Industrial Head Protection*, and NIOSH standards.
- 2.2 Construction areas and designated site areas require eye protection at all times. Minimum eye protection includes approved safety glasses with side shields or goggles that meet the standards specified in ANSI Z87.1, *Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection*. Dark safety glasses are prohibited when working indoors.
- 2.3 Eye protection is required by OSHA to protect against flying particles, molten metal, hazardous materials, gases, vapors, and light radiation. Employees must wear appropriate eye and face protection during certain tasks, including but not limited to:
  - A. Welding, burning, or cutting with torches.
  - B. Using abrasive wheels, grinders, circular saws, or files.
  - C. Chipping concrete, stone, or metal.
  - D. Working with materials subject to scaling, flaking, or shpping.
  - E. Drilling.
  - F. Working under dusty conditions.
  - G. Waterproofing.
  - H. Using powder-actuated or pneumatic tools.
  - I. Working with compressed air or gases.
  - J. Working with chemicals or hazardous materials.
  - K. Using chop saws, chain saws, masonry saws, or similar equipment.

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- L. Working in the immediate area of operations listed above.
- M. Working in laboratories.

### **3. Respiratory Protection**

- 3.1 Respiratory protection devices approved by NIOSH must be worn by employees exposed to hazardous concentrations of dust, fumes, mists, gases, smoke, sprays, vapors, or other hazards as required by OSHA.
- 3.2 The contractor is responsible for monitoring their job sites for respiratory hazards. They shall take steps to remove their employees if a potentially hazardous situation develops, or they shall provide respiratory equipment.
- 3.3 A respiratory protection program must be established that includes medical surveillance; training; equipment selection, storage, and maintenance; fitness testing; and recordkeeping.
- 3.4 Some EQ sites require respiratory protection in designated areas. The contractor should verify site requirements with the EQ representative prior to beginning work.

### **4. Hearing Protection**

- 4.1 Approved hearing protection must be worn by employees exposed to noise levels above 85 decibels and in site-designated areas. Hearing protection must attenuate noise levels to less than 85 decibels.
- 4.2 Hearing protection must be worn where signs indicate hearing protection is required or where equipment exceeds acceptable noise limits.
- 4.3 A hearing conservation program must be established as required by OSHA.

### **5. Fall Protection**

- 5.1 Fall protection is required for work performed at certain heights as established by OSHA regulations. This includes work at heights greater than 4 feet in general and heights greater than 6 feet in construction areas.
- 5.2 One or a combination of the following fall protection systems can be used on EQ sites:
  - A. A fall arrest system consisting of a full body harness, shock absorbent lanyard(s), or a self-retracting lifeline that meets OSHA standards (Certain work mandates fall protection requires 2 shock absorbent lanyards.)
  - B. Guardrail systems
  - C. Work platforms with standard guardrails
  - D. Interior and exterior safety nets
- 5.3 Body harnesses, shock absorbent lanyards, and self-retracting lifelines, regardless of configuration, must be subjected to a documented monthly inspection by the contractor. Inspection records are to be maintained by the contractor so that they are available upon request to EQ.
- 5.4 In addition to monthly inspections, the contractor is expected to conduct additional inspections in accordance with regulatory requirements. According to OSHA standard 29

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CFR 1926.502(d)(21), personal fall arrest systems shall be inspected prior to each use for wear, damage, and other deterioration, and defective components shall be removed from service.

## **6. Footwear**

- 6.1 Employees must wear shoes or boots. Sandals, open-toe shoes, and bare feet are prohibited in industrial and construction work environments.
- 6.2 Contractors must ensure that the appropriate protective footwear is worn by employees in areas where safety shoes signs are posted and in areas where workers are exposed to foot injuries due to falling or rolling objects, objects piercing the sole, or where workers' feet are exposed to electrical hazards. All personnel in construction and demolition areas are required at all times to wear safety footwear meeting the ANSI Standard Z41-1999 requirements for toe-cap protection. Appropriate foot protection must be worn for operating tamping equipment and when handling and carrying heavy tools or objects.

## **7. Hand and Skin Protection**

- 7.1 Wear appropriate hand protection when handling objects or substances that could cut, burn, injure the hand, or be absorbed into the skin, and when exposed to harmful temperature extremes.
- 7.2 Certain areas may require a higher level of protection in the form of coveralls or chemical protective clothing. Do not enter these areas without appropriate clearance, training, and protection.
- 7.3 Shirts with sleeves must be worn at all times.
- 7.4 Shorts are prohibited.

## **8. Welding, Cutting and Burning**

- 8.1 Wear a welding helmet with welding hood (combination hard hat) when welding. Soft caps are prohibited.
- 8.2 Face shields or goggles that fit on hard hats must be worn along with approved safety glasses during grinding operations.
- 8.3 For overhead work, wear fire-resistant hard hats and fire-retardant shoulder covers.
- 8.4 Keep clothing free of oil, grease, and flammable material. Button collars and cuffs, and turn pant cuffs inside pants. Pockets must be covered with flaps and buttoned, or removed from the front of vests, shirts, and aprons.
- 8.5 Welders and their helpers must wear gloves and proper infrared/ultraviolet eye protection in addition to safety glasses.
- 8.6 Workers engaged in oxy-acetylene welding or cutting must wear a welding helmet or safety goggles that are equipped with suitable filter lenses.
- 8.7 Workers who are engaged in electric arc welding must use shields or helmets that are equipped with suitable filter lenses that fit on a hard hat.

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- 8.8 Wear approved safety glasses or goggles under a combination hard hat or welding hood.
- 8.9 Do not perform welding, burning, or open flame work on staging suspended by fiber or synthetic rope.

## **9. Additional Personal Protective Equipment**

The contractor must furnish any additional equipment required by unusual circumstances (such as high temperature work or handling corrosive liquids) and not specifically covered in this section. Use of such must be reviewed with the EQ representative and/or EHS manager.

## **10. Safe Lifting Program**

- 10.1 Contractors should have a program that identifies which occupations and activities have routinely occurring lifting hazards.
- 10.2 At a minimum, contractors should train employees identified in paragraph 11.1 on the following topics: recognizing lifting hazards, proper lifting techniques, back safety, and ergonomics.