

WHAT IS PPE?

Personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as "PPE", is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses.



SAFETY GOGGLES

The supervisor shall ensure that each affected student uses appropriated eye or face protection when exposed to eye or face hazards from flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors, or potentially injurious light radiation.

A CHEMISTS' GUIDE TO PPE



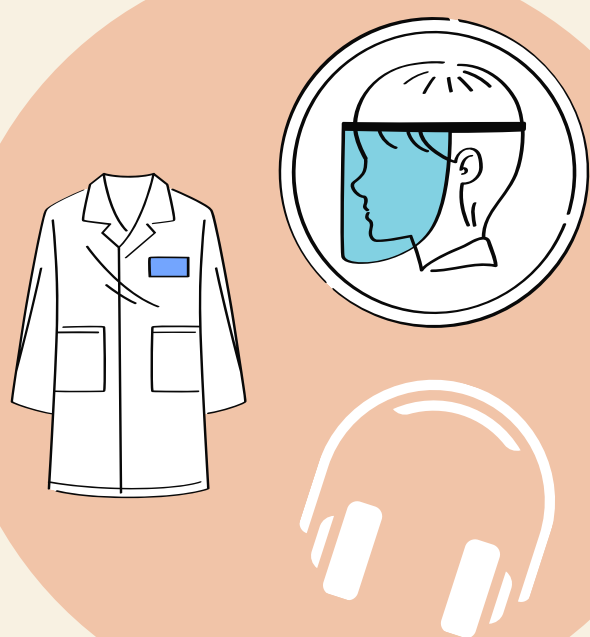
PANTS & SHOES

Students whose work involves exposure to hot substances or corrosive or poisonous materials must have protective gear to cover exposed body parts, including legs and feet.



GLOVES

For protection against chemicals, glove selection must be based on the chemicals encountered, the chemical resistance and the physical properties of the glove material.



OTHER

Lab coats, face shields, and hearing protection may also be necessary depending on guidelines found in your SOP and/or chemical safety data sheets.

Questions?

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

WHEN CHOOSING PPE



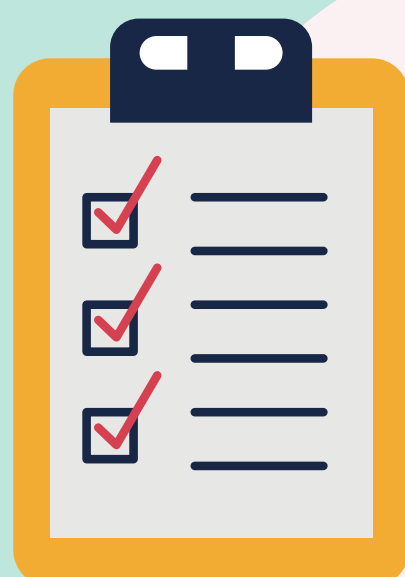
WHAT DOES OSHA SAY?

Supervisors are required to train each student who must use PPE. Students must be trained to know at least the following:

- When PPE is necessary.
- What PPE is necessary.
- The limitations of the PPE (See section below)



WHAT DOES MY SOP SAY?



A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes how your lab will safely handle a hazardous chemical, including the amount and concentration you will use, how you obtain or create the working solution, and special handling procedures, engineering controls, and personal protective equipment.

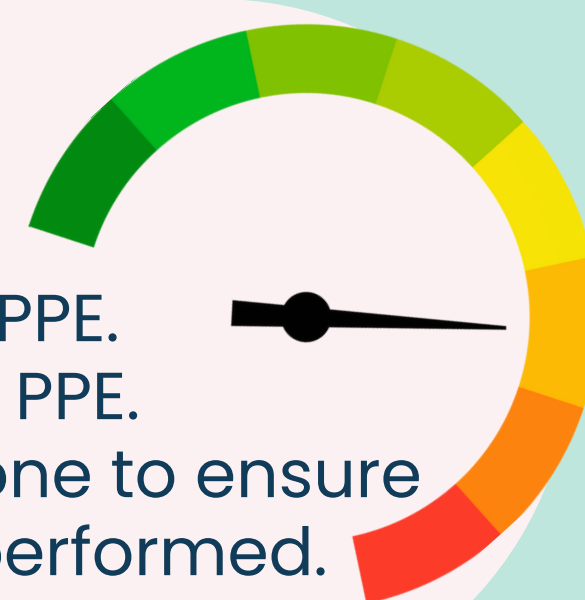
Supervisors are required to review and understand their SOP BEFORE training students and executing said procedure.

WHAT PPE LIMITATIONS EXIST?

Student training must include:

- How to properly put on, take off, adjust and wear the PPE.
- Proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of PPE.

PPE is not "one size fits all". Proper research must be done to ensure that the chosen PPE is suitable for the procedure being performed.



LET'S GET REAL...

Edward Bernacki, a professor of medicine and chair of a joint committee on health, safety, and the environment at Johns Hopkins University, tells each trimester's new students a story about eye safety. Bernacki explains that a graduate student working in the lab chose not to wear eye protection. Following a lab explosion, he suffered permanent blindness and was unable to work in the lab again. "There are only so many things in life you can control, but [wearing eye protection] you can" Bernacki explains.

—Mandy Savage from Occupational Health and Safety