

## **Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 - summary**

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regs 1999 require employers to identify and assess the risks to health and safety in the workplace to enable the most effective means of reducing those risks to an acceptable level to be determined. There is a "hierarchy of control measures, where PPE is considered the "last resort", other means of protection should be used wherever reasonable practicable. Employers should, therefore, provide appropriate PPE and training in its use wherever there is a risk that cannot be adequately controlled by other means.

**Reg.4 - Employers to provide suitable PPE to those at risk unless the risk is adequately controlled by other means. It must:-**

- *be appropriate for the risks involved & conditions at the place of exposure*
- *take account of ergonomic requirements & state of health of wearers*
- *be capable of fitting wearer correctly*
- *be effective in preventing or controlling the risks*
- *comply with any EC requirement for PPE*

**Reg. 5 - Compatibility** - *any item of PPE worn must be compatible with any other items of PPE worn for other risks, and remain effective.*

**Reg. 6 - Assessment of PPE** - *to ensure that intended equipment is suitable:-*

- *and control any risk not avoided by other means*
- *that the characteristics of the PPE will be effective against the risks, taking into account any risks the equipment may itself cause,*
- *by comparing PPE available against those to be supplied.*
- *the assessment to be reviewed if suspected it is no longer valid, or if there have been changes in the matters to which it relates.*

**Reg. 7 Maintenance & replacement of PPE** - *employer to ensure PPE is maintained in efficient state & working order, and in good repair*

**Reg. 8 Storage of PPE** - *appropriate storage facility for PPE to be provided.*

**Reg. 9 Adequate and comprehensible Information, instruction & training** - *to be supplied to employees provided with PPE to enable employee to know: -*

- *the risks the PPE will avoid or limit,*
- *purpose for which, and manner in which, PPE is to be used,*
- *action required by employee to maintain in effective state good repair & working order*

**Reg. 10 - Use of PPE: -**

- *employer to ensure PPE provided to employees is properly used,*
- *employees to use PPE according to training & instructions given by employer,*
- *employees to return PPE to proper storage facility after use.*

**Reg. 11 - Reporting of loss or defect** - *employees must report loss or obvious defects in the PPE to his/her employer.*