

MBAA Safety Toolbox Talk



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Hazard Assessments

Overview

As a requirement of the OSHA 1910.132(d) Personal Protective Equipment standard employers are required to assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Therefore, as an employer, you must conduct hazard assessments of your workplace to determine if hazards are present what PPE is required. When assessing hazards the hierarchy of controls should always be applied: elimination, substitution, engineering and administrative controls. PPE alone should not be relied on but used in conjunction with the other controls. PPE is always the last resort.

Written Clarification

The OSHA standard 1910.132 (d)(2) also requires the employer verify the required workplace hazard assessment be performed through a written certification identifying the workplace evaluated, the person certifying the evaluation performed, and the date of the hazard assessment. The document will be identified as the certification of the hazard assessment.

The Assessment Tool

There are great written tools for conducting PPE Hazard Assessments (see links). The assessment tools, if used and filled out properly can serve as the certification of the hazard assessment.

Conducting the Assessment

When conducting the hazard assessment involve affected employees in the process. Discuss the reasons for the survey and how the assessment is conducted. Review the functions of the job being assessed, potential hazards and PPE currently being used.

Review Data

Review reports of work related injuries, near misses reports, and reported safety concerns of the task or job being assessed. This information can be helpful for assessing the hazards.

Conduct a Walk-through Survey

The survey helps to identify sources of the hazards to employees. Look at the layout of the workplace, work operations, and employee exposure to the hazards. Some basic hazards include:

- Impact (flying objects)
- Penetration (sharp objects piercing foot or hand)
- Compression (pinch points)
- Chemical exposure (inhalation, ingestion, skin/eye contact)
- Dust (grinding)
- Fall (scaffolds & elevated work)
- Noise (mechanical rooms, power washing)
- Electrical (static, arcing, short circuit, shock)
- Temperature extremes (heat/cold)
- Light (optical radiation)

Selecting PPE

After going through the hierarchy of controls and reviewing all engineering and administrative options, select the PPE as recommended by the Appendix B in the PPE standard:

- a) Become familiar with the potential hazards and the type of protective equipment that is available, and what it can do; i.e., splash protection, impact protection, etc.
- b) Compare the hazards associated with the environment; i.e., impact velocities, masses, projectile shape, radiation intensities, with the capabilities of the available protective equipment;
- c) Select the protective equipment which ensures a level of protection

- d) greater than the minimum required to protect employees from the hazards;
- d) Fit the user with the protective device and give instructions on care and use of the PPE. It is very important that end users be made aware of all warning labels for and limitations of their PPE.

Fitting the PPE

Careful consideration must be given to comfort and fit. PPE that fits poorly does not give its fullest level of protection. Continued wearing of the device is more likely if it fits the wearer comfortably. Protective devices are generally available in a variety of sizes. If the PPE is adjustable such as eye protection and respirators, ensure the PPE is adjusted to the user. Care should be taken to ensure that the right size is also selected.

Reassessment of the Hazards

It is the responsibility of the safety officer to reassess the workplace hazard situation as necessary, by identifying and evaluating new equipment and processes, reviewing accident records, and reevaluating the suitability of previously selected PPE.

LINKS

Much of the information provided in this document is generalized as OSHA has very specific requirements related to PPE. Please refer to the links below or ask the MBAA Brewery Safety Committee for additional information as needed.

- [OSHA Training and Reference Material Library - PPE Assessments](#)
- [PPE Assessment Tool](#)
- [MBAA PPE Safety Tool Box Talk](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BREWERY SAFETY, PLEASE VISIT THE MBAA BREWERY SAFETY WEBSITE AT:
<http://www.mbaa.com/brewresources/brewsafety>