

Construction Hazards and Risks Control

Lecture Title: – The Critical Role of PPE in Construction

Lecturer: Ryan Spiteri

Date: 14th November 2025



Undergraduate Diploma in
Occupational Health and Safety

Objectives

- **Propose the personal protective equipment (PPE) and its appropriate usage.**



Definition of PPE

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) refers to all equipment worn or held by a worker to protect against health and safety risks.
- Examples: helmets, gloves, goggles, footwear, harnesses.
- It is the last line of defence in the hierarchy of control.



Why do we use PPE?

- The first importance of PPE in construction is that of the worker's safety. If a person is injured, this can and will impact the rest of their life. It affects their financial situation, family, and psyche.
- PPE, if used properly, can reduce the impact or save workers from dangerous scenarios that could potentially injure them and cause severe complications in their day-to-day life forever.
- Very important chosen PPE not to create discomfort
- Avoid introducing any risks



SL 646.13 Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations, 2003 LN 121 of 2003

- Governed by SL 646.13 – Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations, 2003.
- Implements EU Directive 89/656/EEC.
- Employers must provide CE-marked PPE, conduct risk assessments, and ensure suitability.

Obligations of the Employer (SL 646.13)

- Where applicable, all PPE shall comply with the provisions specified in this regulation
- If PPE is worn simultaneously, Employer shall ensure that PPE is compatible and effective against the risks.
- Employer shall determine the conditions of use of PPE in particular the period for which it is worn, the seriousness of the risk, the frequency of exposure to risk
- If PPE is shared, the employer shall ensure that PPE do not create health and hygiene issues for the users.



Obligations of the Employer (SL 646.13)

Part 2

- Employer shall provide adequate information to all workers regarding each PPE required.
- Employer to provide PPE free of charge and shall ensure that PPE is in good working order and satisfactory hygienic condition
- The employer shall inform worker on the risks that the PPE is protecting them
- Employer shall arrange training on how to wear and use

Duties of Employees

- Use PPE correctly
- Return after use in good condition
- Report any defects or losses
- To attend training as required.



Involvement of WHSR

17. (1) A Workers' Health and Safety Representative shall be consulted in the manner specified in article 6(4) of the Act, and in the General Provisions for Health and Safety at Work Places Regulations.

Consultation with
Workers' Health
and Safety
Representative.
S.L. 424.18

(2) A Workers' Health and Safety Representative shall have the right to ask the employer to take appropriate measures and to submit proposals to him to that end to mitigate hazards for workers and, or remove sources of danger.

(3) A Workers' Health and Safety Representative shall not be placed at a disadvantage owing to his activities.

Selecting Appropriate PPE

- Type of work being performed
- Potential hazards present
- Comfort and fit of the PPE



Head Protection

- Hard hats protect from falling objects and other head injuries such as bumping your head into a structure.
- Comply with EN 397.
- Inspect regularly; replace if damaged or expired.

Eye and Face Protection

- Goggles, face shields, visors – protect from dust, splashes, debris.
- Comply with EN 166.
- Clean and store properly after each use.

Hearing Protection

- Ear plugs and muffs used when exposure exceeds 85 dB(A).
- Comply with EN 352.
- Ensure correct fitting and hygiene.

Hand Protection

- Safety gloves: cut, chemical, and thermal resistant types.
- Comply with EN 388 and EN 374.
- Select based on specific hazards.

Foot Protection

- Safety footwear with toe caps and anti-slip soles.
- Comply with EN ISO 20345.
- Replace when worn or damaged.

Body Protection

- High-visibility clothing (EN ISO 20471), coveralls, aprons, harnesses.
- Protect against weather, chemicals, and abrasion.

Respiratory Protection

- Masks, half/full-face respirators.
- Protect from dust, fumes, gases.
- Comply with EN 149 or EN 143.
- Fit testing is essential.



Fall Protection

- Harnesses, lifelines, lanyards.
- Comply with EN 361/358/795.
- Inspect before use and store properly.



Fall Protection

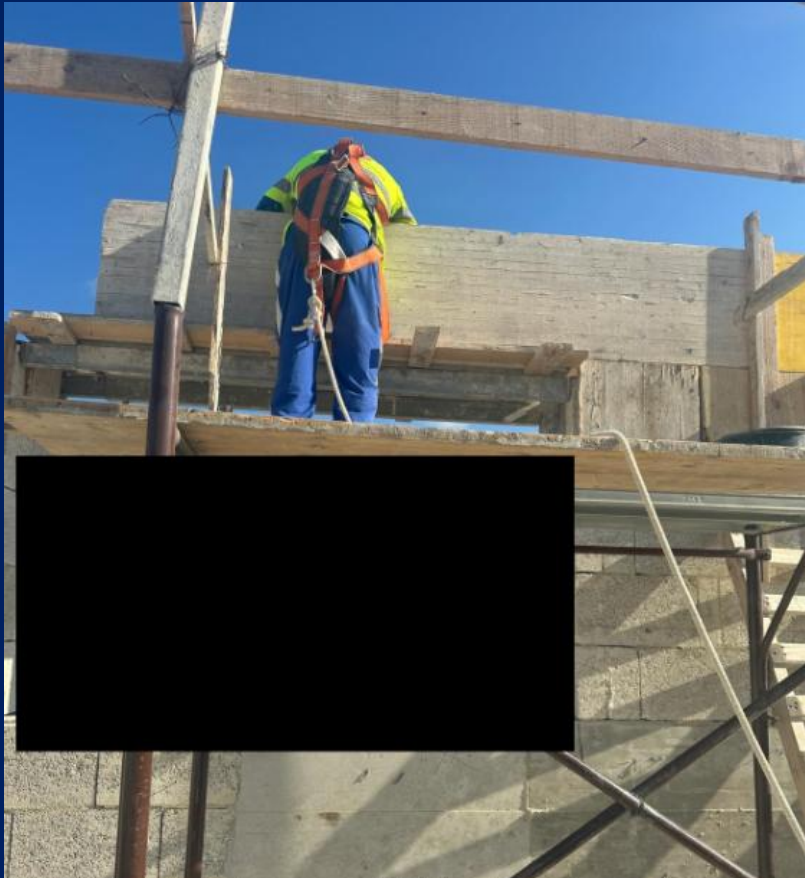
- Harnesses, lifelines, lanyards.
- Comply with EN 361/358/795.
- Inspect before use and store properly.

Practical Example

- Example site tasks:
 - - Demolition → helmet, boots, hi-vis.
 - - Grinding → goggles, gloves, ear muffs.
 - - Painting → gloves, masks, coveralls.



Do you believe PPE is adequately used on construction sites?



- PPE video on youtube
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nw_pNMnLG3A





Undergraduate Diploma in
Occupational Health and Safety