



Personal Protective Equipment Hazard Assessment



Department of Consumer
and Business Services

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About this guide

“Personal Protective Equipment Hazard Assessment” is an Oregon OSHA Standards and Technical Resources Section publication.

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What is a PPE hazard assessment?

A personal protective equipment (PPE) hazard assessment is an evaluation of your workplace that helps you determine what hazards your employees are exposed to and what PPE they need to protect themselves. A hazard assessment should include:

- The jobs (or tasks) your employees do
- The hazards your employees are exposed to
- Where the hazards are located
- The likelihood those hazards could injure your employees
- The severity of a potential injury
- The types of PPE necessary to protect your employees from those hazards

Why should you do a PPE hazard assessment?

There are three reasons:

1. A hazard assessment will help you find hazards at your workplace.
2. A hazard assessment will help you determine what personal protective equipment your employees need for protection.
3. Oregon OSHA's rules require you do one.



What are Oregon OSHA's requirements for PPE hazard assessments?

If you are a general industry, construction, or agricultural employer you must determine if your workplace has hazards you cannot eliminate or control without PPE. If there are such hazards, you must:

- Select the PPE that protects your employees from the hazards
- Communicate your selection decisions to each affected employee
- Ensure the PPE fits each employee
- Require your employees to use their PPE when they are exposed to the hazards

General industry employers must also prepare a document that says they have done the hazard assessment. The document must include:

- A heading that says the document is a "certification" of the hazard assessment
- The name of the workplace evaluated
- The name of the person certifying the hazard assessment was completed
- The date of the hazard assessment

Oregon OSHA's hazard assessment rules

- *General industry: 437-002-0134(1)*, Hazard assessment and equipment selection. Appendix B to Subdivision 2/1 has guidelines for conducting a hazard assessment.
- *Construction: 437-003-0134(1)*, Hazard assessment and equipment selection. Appendix B to Subdivision 2/1 has guidelines for conducting a hazard assessment.
- *Agriculture: 437-004-1005(2)*, Hazard assessment and protective equipment selection. Appendix A to Subdivision 4/1 has a sample hazard assessment form.

What types of PPE may be necessary?

Your hazard assessment should determine if your employees need any of the following types of PPE:

- Eye and face protection
- Fall protection
- Foot protection
- Hand/general skin protection
- Head protection
- Hearing protection
- Leg protection
- Personal floatation device
- Respiratory protection
- Torso/general body protection

How to do a PPE hazard assessment

Do a baseline survey to identify workplace hazards

A baseline survey is a thorough evaluation of your entire workplace – including work processes, tasks, and equipment – that identifies safety and health hazards. A complete survey will tell you what the hazards are, where they are, and how severe a potential injury could be.

Suggestions:

Use safety data sheets (SDS) to identify chemical hazards. A safety data sheet has detailed information about a hazardous chemical's health effects, its physical and chemical characteristics, and safe handling practices.

Review equipment owner and operator manuals to determine the manufacturer's safety warnings and recommended PPE.

Conduct a job-hazard analysis (JHA) — a method of identifying, assessing, and controlling hazards associated with specific jobs. A JHA breaks down a job into tasks. You evaluate each task to determine if there is a safer way to do it. A job-hazard analysis works well for jobs with difficult-to-control hazards and jobs with histories of accidents or near misses. JHAs for complex jobs can take a considerable amount of time and expertise to develop. You may want to have a safety professional help you.

Have an experienced safety professional survey your workplace with you.

Evaluate your employees' exposures to each hazard identified in the baseline survey

Consider the employee's task, the likelihood the employee would be injured without PPE, and the severity of a potential injury.

An example:

The task: A worker uses a plasma cutter to make decorative wall art out of thoroughly cleaned oil barrels.

The outcome: Hot metal sparks from the cutting process burn through the worker's clothing, causing severe skin burns.

Although the used oil container was properly cleaned, tested, and declared free of flammable vapors, the process of using a plasma cutter on metal produces sparks and other hazards.

An effective PPE hazard assessment would have produced the following information:

Task: Using a plasma cutter.

Hazards: The plasma-cutting arc produces hot metal and sparks, especially during the initial piercing of the metal. It also heats the work piece and the cutting torch.

Never cut closed or pressurized containers such as tanks or drums that could explode. Never cut containers that may have held combustible or toxic or reactive materials unless they have been cleaned, tested, and declared safe by a qualified person.

Likelihood of injury without PPE: High.

Severity of a potential injury: Life-threatening burns.

PPE necessary for the task:

Body: Flame-resistant clothing or clothing made from tightly woven material such as leather, wool, or heavy denim.

Eyes and face: Safety glasses with side shield or face shield; welding helmet with shaded eye protection for welding tasks.

Feet: High-top leather shoes or boots.

Hands: Flame-resistant gloves.

Respiratory protection: Local ventilation at the worksite and appropriate respirator if ventilation is not adequate to remove air contaminants.

Document your hazard assessment

For each job assessed, documentation must include the following information:

- A heading saying the document is a "certification" of the hazard assessment
- The name of the workplace evaluated
- The name of the person certifying the hazard assessment was completed
- The date of each hazard assessment

PPE hazard assessment certification

Workplace evaluated: _____

Person certifying the evaluation: _____

Hazard assessment date: _____

Use the [PPE hazard assessment and certification form](#) on our website to conduct your own hazard assessment.

Construction industry and agricultural employers do not have to document their hazard assessments, but must tell each exposed employee about their PPE selection decisions and meet other rule requirements.

Do regular workplace inspections

Regular inspections tell you whether you have eliminated or controlled existing hazards, and help you identify new hazards. Quarterly inspections by employees trained in hazard recognition are a good way to get the job done.

Look for new hazards whenever you change equipment, materials, or work processes. Determine what hazards could result from the changes and how to control them. If your business works at multiple sites, you may need to do a hazard assessment at each site.

Oregon OSHA Services

Oregon OSHA offers a wide variety of safety and health services to employers and employees:

APPEALS

- 503-947-7426; 800-922-2689; admin.web@dcbs.oregon.gov
- Provides the opportunity for employers to hold informal meetings with Oregon OSHA on concerns about workplace safety and health.
- Discusses Oregon OSHA's requirements and clarifies workplace safety or health violations.
- Discusses abatement dates and negotiates settlement agreements to resolve disputed citations.

CONFERENCES

- 503-378-3272; 888-292-5247, Option 1; oregon.conferences@dcbs.oregon.gov
- Co-hosts conferences throughout Oregon that enable employees and employers to learn and share ideas with local and nationally recognized safety and health professionals.

CONSULTATIVE SERVICES

- 503-378-3272; 800-922-2689; consult.web@dcbs.oregon.gov
- Offers no-cost, on-site safety and health assistance to help Oregon employers recognize and correct workplace safety and health problems.
- Provides consultations in the areas of safety, industrial hygiene, ergonomics, occupational safety and health programs, assistance to new businesses, the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP), and the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

ENFORCEMENT

- 503-378-3272; 800-922-2689; enforce.web@dcbs.oregon.gov
- Offers pre-job conferences for mobile employers in industries such as logging and construction.
- Inspects places of employment for occupational safety and health hazards and investigates workplace complaints and accidents.
- Provides abatement assistance to employers who have received citations and provides compliance and technical assistance by phone.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- 503-947-7443; 888-292-5247, Option 2; ed.web@dcbs.oregon.gov
- Provides workshops and materials covering management of basic safety and health programs, safety committees, accident investigation, technical topics, and job safety analysis.

STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES

- 503-378-3272; 800-922-2689; tech.web@dcbs.oregon.gov
- Develops, interprets, and gives technical advice on Oregon OSHA's safety and health rules.
- Publishes safe-practices guides, pamphlets, and other materials for employers and employees.
- Manages the Oregon OSHA Resource Center, which offers safety videos, books, periodicals, and research assistance for employers and employees.

Need more information? Call your nearest Oregon OSHA office.

Salem Central Office

350 Winter St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Phone: 503-378-3272

Toll-free: 800-922-2689

Fax: 503-947-7461

en Español: 800-843-8086

Website: osha.oregon.gov

Bend

Red Oaks Square
1230 NE Third St., Suite A-115
Bend, OR 97701
541-388-6066
Consultation: 541-388-6068

Eugene

1500 Valley River Drive, Suite 150
Eugene, OR 97401
541-686-7562
Consultation: 541-686-7913

Medford

1840 Barnett Road, Suite D
Medford, OR 97504
541-776-6030
Consultation: 541-776-6016

Pendleton

200 SE Hailey Ave.
Pendleton, OR 97801
541-276-9175
Consultation: 541-276-2353

Portland

Durham Plaza
16760 SW Upper Boones
Ferry Road, Suite 200
Tigard, OR 97224
503-229-5910
Consultation: 503-229-6193

Salem

1340 Tandem Ave. NE, Suite 160
Salem, OR 97301
503-378-3274
Consultation: 503-373-7819

Salem Central Office

350 Winter St. NE
Salem, OR 97301-3882

Phone: 503-378-3272

Toll-free: 800-922-2689

Fax: 503-947-7461

en Español: 800-843-8086

Website: osha.oregon.gov



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