

PPE Requirements for Agriculture



What employers need to know

OAR 437-004-1005, General Requirements

The requirements in this section apply to all protective equipment not covered in OAR 437-004-1041 (Respiratory Protection) or 437-004-0630 (Noise Exposure) – these rules have their own hazard assessment and training requirements.

Conduct a hazard assessment

Agricultural employers must provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for their workers based on an assessment of the hazards at their workplaces. Hazards include chemicals, contaminants, and energy sources that are present in the workplace. Appendix A to Subdivision I provides a sample hazard assessment form. Although a written assessment document is not required by the rule, employers must:

- Select the types of PPE that will protect workers from the hazards identified in the hazard assessment and ensure that each exposed worker uses the equipment.
- Tell the worker the reason you chose the PPE. You can do this as part of the employee training.
- Select PPE that properly fits each exposed worker.

- Ensure that equipment is maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition.

Provide training to each employee who must use PPE

Agricultural employers must provide training that includes at least:

- When PPE is necessary
- What type of PPE is necessary
- How to properly put on, take off, adjust, and use the PPE
- The limitations and useful life of the PPE
- The proper care, maintenance, storage, and disposal of the PPE

Workers must demonstrate the ability to use PPE properly. If a worker doesn't show the required understanding and skill, retrain that worker. Likewise, retraining is required in circumstances where:

- Changes in the workplace make old training obsolete
- Changes in the types of PPE to be used make new training necessary
- The worker doesn't know how to use the PPE properly

Note that rules require employers to control hazards first. Contain or eliminate hazards at the source by using administrative or engineering controls. PPE is appropriate when these types of controls are not feasible or where there are still hazards.

OAR 437-004-1030, Work Clothing

Determine if your employees need high-visibility garments

Agricultural employers must determine if any work assigned will expose workers to the hazards caused by on-highway-type moving vehicles in work zones and street or highway traffic.

If workers are exposed to these types of hazards, you must provide and require workers to wear highly visible upper body garments. The colors must contrast with other colors in the area to make the worker stand out. Colors equivalent to strong red, strong orange, strong yellow, strong yellow-green, or fluorescent versions of these colors are acceptable. If working in the dark, you must provide workers with garments that have reflective material visible from all sides for 1,000 feet.

OAR 437-004-1035 Eye and Face Protection, 437-004-1050 Head Protection, and 437-004-1060 Hand, Foot, and Extremity Protection

Assess electrical and laser hazards

Agricultural employers must assess possible exposure to electrical and laser hazards along with other hazards in their workplaces. Workers exposed to laser light beams must be furnished with, and required to use, laser safety goggles that will protect for the specific wavelength and optical density of the laser. You must provide and require workers with potential exposure to electrical hazards to wear appropriate protection for the eyes, face, head, and extremities.

OAR 437-004-1041, Respiratory Protection

Make sure you provide the required supplemental information to the clinic that does your medical evaluations for respirators to help assess the worker's ability to use a respirator without adverse health effects.

This rule requirement is paired with the medical evaluation forms in Appendix C to 437-004-1041. Employers can use the revised Part B, Section 2 of Appendix C, or an equivalent form, to provide the following information:

- The type and weight of the respirator the employee will use
- The duration and frequency the employee will use the respirator, including use for rescue and escape
- The expected physical work effort while using the respirator
- Additional protective clothing and equipment
- Temperature and humidity extremes the employee may experience during respirator use



Examples of hazards and appropriate PPE

Body part	Hazard	Appropriate PPE
Eyes and face	Flying particles or dust	Safety glasses with side shields, goggles, or face shield
	Electrical	Plastic face shield
	Powdered and liquid chemicals	Gas-tight goggles, face shields
	Laser beams, UV, or IR light	Laser-safety lens with appropriate filter
Head	Falling/overhead objects	Hard hat, helmet
	Electrical conductors	Class B hard hat or helmet
	Power-driven machinery	Head covering or caps that completely cover hair
Hands	Falling/crushing objects	Select according to manufacturers' recommendations, standard industry practices, process knowledge. Consider dexterity requirements and fit.
	Electrical hazards	
	Sharp objects	
	Hot or cold substances/objects	
	Chemical spills/splashes	
Feet & Extremities	Harmful substances	Steel-toed shoes/boots
	Falling/crushing objects	
	Electrical hazards	
	Sharp objects	
	Hot or cold substances/objects	
All	Spill/splash of chemical or harmful substance	Chemical-resistant footwear/covers/suits
	Falls	Lifeline with safety harness or body belt



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