

New PPE Requirements for Agriculture

OSHA 437
Division 4/1

New PPE Requirements for Agriculture

Effective January 1, 2013, the personal protective equipment (PPE) standards have new requirements for agricultural employers.

What employers need to know

OSHA 437-004-1005, General Requirements.

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

NEW Conduct a hazard assessment.

Agricultural employers must provide 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. A new 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.

NEW 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.

Before allowing a worker to use PPE they must demonstrate the ability to use it properly. Retrain any worker who does not demonstrate the required understanding and skill. 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.

Remember, the 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.

OSHA 437-004-1030, Work Clothing.

NEW 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 sufficiently 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 it's dark, you must provide workers with garments that have reflective material visible from all sides for 1,000 feet.

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

NEW 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.

NEW This rule requirement is now 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 this 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 to be worn.
- 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 manufacturer's recommendations, standard industry practices, process knowledge, etc. Consider dexterity requirements and fit.
	Electrical hazards	
	Sharp objects	
	Hot or cold substances/objects	
	Chemical spills/splashes	
	Harmful substances	
Feet & Extremities	Falling/crushing objects	Steel-toed shoes/boots, metatarsals
	Electrical hazards	Electrical hazard-rated footwear
	Sharp objects	Puncture resistant soles, sleeves, chaps, or gauntlets
	Hot or cold substances/objects	Insulated leg/foot/ arm covers
	Spill/splash of chemical or harmful substance	Chemical-resistant footwear/covers/suits
All	Falls	Lifeline with safety harness or body belt.

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