



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Complete Safety Reference Guide

Personal Protective Equipment is your last line of defense against injury. Wearing the correct PPE properly on every shift can prevent lacerations, burns, hearing loss, eye injuries, respiratory harm, and death. This guide covers all PPE types, how to wear them correctly, and your responsibilities.

KEY PRINCIPLES	
Last Line of Defense	PPE does not eliminate hazards. It protects you when all other controls have been applied.
Know Your Task	Different tasks require different PPE. Understand exactly what is required for your specific job before starting.
Inspect Before Use	Damaged PPE provides little or no protection. Inspect gear at the start of every shift.
Replace Immediately	Never use damaged PPE. Remove it from service and notify your supervisor right away.

REQUIRED PPE BY TYPE

Safety Glasses and Goggles

- Required in all areas with projectile, chemical splash, or debris hazards.
- Goggles provide additional protection against liquid splash.
- Scratched or cracked lenses must be replaced immediately.

Foot Protection

- Steel-toed shoes or boots are required in all production and warehouse areas.
- Check for exposed steel, worn soles, or compromised toe caps before each shift.

Hearing Protection

- Earplugs or earmuffs required in all high-noise areas.
- Prolonged exposure to noise above 85 dB causes permanent hearing loss.



Hand Protection

- Cut-resistant gloves: required when handling knives, sharp edges, or abrasive materials.
- Heat-resistant gloves: required when handling hot surfaces or materials.
- Chemical-resistant gloves: required when handling chemicals or cleaning agents.
- Do not wear gloves near rotating equipment without supervisor approval.

Respiratory Protection

- N95 dust masks available to all employees on a voluntary basis in production areas.
- Maintenance employees may be required to use respirators for specific tasks.
- Only NIOSH-approved respirators are authorized for use.

Head Protection

- Hard hats required in areas with overhead hazards or falling object risks.
- Inspect for cracks, dents, and damaged suspension before each use.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Know which PPE is required for your specific job tasks.

Wear all required PPE properly and for the entire duration of the task.

Inspect your PPE at the start of every shift.

Report damaged or missing PPE to your supervisor immediately.

Maintain PPE with proper storage, cleaning, and handling.

Do not share PPE that makes contact with skin or mucous membranes.

No PPE, no work. Wear it correctly every shift, no exceptions.

PPE DAILY CHECKLIST

Inspect your gear at the start of every shift.



- ☐ Safety glasses or goggles: clean, no scratches, lenses intact
- ☐ Steel-toed footwear: no exposed steel, soles in good condition
- ☐ Hearing protection: plugs or muffs available and undamaged
- ☐ Correct gloves for task: cut, heat, or chemical-resistant as required
- ☐ Apron or protective clothing: clean, no tears or chemical damage
- ☐ Hard hat if required: no cracks, dents, or damaged suspension
- ☐ N95 or respirator available if task requires it
- ☐ All PPE stored properly at end of shift

This document is part of the Meat Institute Worker Safety Series, supporting Reporting Metric A4: Supervisors lead safety huddles and toolbox chats regularly with hourly workers.

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