

**University of Delaware**  
**Environmental Health and Safety Protocol**

**Section:** General Health and Safety

**Protocol Name:** Personal Protective Equipment

**Origination Date:** May 1982

**Revisions:** June 1989; November 1992; May 1996; January 2006; February 2014;  
March 2015; June 2016; February 2019; April 2020

**Protocol Number:** G-06

## **I. SCOPE OF PROTOCOL**

This policy addresses the use of Personal Protective Equipment and applies to all University personnel, contract personnel, and visitors in applicable University facilities and/or University operations.

## **II. DEFINITIONS**

- A. Personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to protective clothing, hard hats/helmets, safety glasses & goggles, face shield, respiratory protection, hearing protection or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury. The hazards addressed by protective equipment include but are not limited to: physical, electrical, heat, chemicals, biohazards, radiological, and airborne particulate matter.

## **III. PROTOCOL STATEMENT**

- A. Each college, school, department, division or unit shall provide or otherwise make available to each employee required to wear personal protective equipment the devices commensurate with the activity and hazard involved. Students enrolled in lab courses may be required to purchase their own PPE.

## **IV. PROTOCOL STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES**

- A. Deans, directors, chairpersons, principal investigators, laboratory instructors, and line supervisors shall assure compliance with this policy. Individuals responsible for assuring compliance with this policy shall correct infractions upon detection. Disciplinary actions shall be taken as needed.
- B. Eye Protection
1. All eye protection devices used must be American National Standards Institute Z87.1 approved. This can be determined by checking for an ANSI Z87 or Z87 stamp on the frame of the glasses or goggles.
  2. Eye protection shall be utilized by all individuals, including contractors, in University facilities and/or operations in which activities take place involving:
    - Gas or electric arc welding;
    - Hot molten metals;

- Heat treating, tampering or kiln firing of any metal or other material;
  - Corrosive, toxic or explosive material;
  - Compressed gases;
  - UV lights and laser unless exempted by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety;
  - Chemicals: liquid and/or solid;
  - Unsealed sources of radioactive material;
  - Infectious and potentially infectious materials;
  - Milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding or stamping of any solid material;
  - Repair or servicing of mechanical equipment which is reasonably anticipated as hazardous to the eye;
  - Custodial, groundskeeping or other service activity reasonably anticipated as hazardous to the eye;
  - Sports related activities which place the eye at risk to impact. Appropriate nationally recognized sporting associations can serve as a source of generally accepted standards for eye protection equipment;
  - Any other operation involving mechanical or physical activities that are reasonably anticipated as hazardous to the eye.
3. Every person shall wear eye protection devices when entering, participating in, observing or performing any function in connection with, any course or activity taking place in eye protection areas as defined above. Persons covered include, without limitation, administrators, faculty, staff, students, contractors, other employees, and visitors.
  4. University personnel shall follow this policy when conducting University sponsored activities at other locations.
  5. Chemical goggles shall be utilized when there is a liquid splash, spray or mist hazard. Exceptions to this requirement must be approved by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety.
  6. Safety glasses shall be worn at all times in those University laboratories where eye hazards exist.
  7. Photographs taken for public relations purposes must reflect appropriate levels of eye protection for the tasks demonstrated to reflect compliance with the

requirements of this policy even if the pictures are staged with non-hazardous materials.

- C. All hard hats/helmets must be American National Standards Institute Z89.1 approved. This can be determined by checking for the ANSI stamp inside the dome of hard hat/helmet.
- D. All safety footwear must meet American Society for Testing Materials ASTM F 2412-05 and ASTM F 2413-05 standard.
- E. All hearing protection whether it be ear plugs or muffs must meet ANSI S12.42 testing criteria for noise reduction and be assigned a noise reduction rating (NRR).
- F. Departments should develop positive reinforcement programs to encourage employees to comply with the established personal protective equipment requirements.
- G. Initial training shall be provided to personnel regarding personal protective equipment requirements before they perform any activity requiring personal protective equipment. Refresher training shall be provided as required by law.
- H. Other requirements and recommendations for personal protective equipment can be found in the following references:
  - 1. University of Delaware Radiation Safety Manual for Radioactive Materials.
  - 2. University of Delaware Hazardous Material Safety Manual
  - 3. University of Delaware Chemical Hygiene Plan
  - 4. University of Delaware Biosafety Manual
  - 5. University of Delaware Laser Safety Manual
  - 6. 29 CFR 1910.134, 1926.103 OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard
  - 7. 29 CFR 1910.132-133, 1926.95 Personal Protective Equipment
  - 8. 29 CFR 1910.95, 1926.101 Noise Standard
  - 9. 29 CFR 1910.1001 OSHA Asbestos Standard
  - 10. 29 CFR 1910.1025/1926.62 Lead Standard
  - 11. 29 CFR 1910.1153/29 CFR 1926.1153 Respirable Crystalline Silica

For more information regarding this program, contact the Department of Environmental Health and Safety 302-831-8475.