



LEIA Safety Information Sheet

Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992

Prepared by the LEIA Safety and Environment Committee

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SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS 1992

PREAMBLE

This Information Sheet is one of a series produced by the LEIA Safety and Environment Committee on topics relevant to the Lift and Escalator Industry. Whilst every effort has been taken in the production of these sheets, it must be acknowledged that they should be read in conjunction with the relevant legislation, codes of practice etc. They should not be taken as an authoritative interpretation of the law but guidance to it.

INTRODUCTION

The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at Work Regulations were introduced on 1 January 1993. Guidance to the Regulations is available which not only gives information about the Regulations but also contains advice on the selection of PPE. (See Essential Reading below).

In addition, there are the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 2018 concerned with the manufacture, importation, and distribution of personal protective equipment. For PPE distributors in the UK, they are required ensure that:

- Before a product is available on the PPE market, they verify that the CE mark is visible and accompanied with instructions in a language which may be easily understood by the relevant end-user.
- That during the time that the PPE is in their responsibility, it will not be damaged or jeopardised by any transport methods or storage conditions.
- That if they have any reason to believe that the PPE which they have made available onto the market does not conform to the new regulations, that they withdraw/recall it from the market.
- If they believe the PPE presents a risk, that they inform the National Authority immediately giving all available details, especially the particulars around the non-conformity of the PPE and any corrective measures taken.

During this current Covid-19 pandemic The Personal Protective Equipment (Temporary Arrangements) (Coronavirus) (England) Regulation 2020 permits PPE to be placed on the market and procured while it is undergoing conformity assessment procedures but before these have been completed and before any conformity marking has been affixed but this PPE must only be made available to healthcare workers and other frontline workers. The PPE must also be assessed by the HSE and found to be compliant with the relevant elements of the essential health and safety requirements.

THE REGULATIONS

Personal Protective Equipment is defined as all equipment (including clothing affording protection e.g. chemicals, weather) which is intended to be worn or held by a person at work and protects against one or more risks to health and safety, for example gloves, safety footwear, safety helmets and hard hats, eye protection, hearing protection, respiratory protection, safety harnesses and high visibility clothing. Ordinary working clothes or work uniforms that offer no specific protection are not covered.

The following Regulations have more comprehensive requirements in terms of PPE: -

- Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- Noise at Work Regulations 2005
- Work at Height Regulations 2005

PROVISION OF PPE

Employers and the self-employed are responsible for providing suitable PPE to employees exposed to risk to their health and safety whilst at work, where the use of PPE has been identified in a Risk Assessment.

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR) require assessments of the workplace to be carried out to identify risks and the taking of appropriate measures to reduce them to more acceptable levels or eliminating them totally.

Bearing this in mind and the varying levels of preventive and protective measures in the MHSWR, PPE should always be regarded as the last resort. Wherever possible other means should be found for controlling or eliminating the risk e.g. guarding etc, nevertheless there will be circumstances when PPE will still be required to control the risk.

The reason for varying levels of action in deciding on preventive and protective measures is as follows: -

- PPE only protects the person wearing it.
- Wearing PPE can give a false sense of security.
- PPE may restrict the mobility of the person.
- PPE can fail, exposing you to the risks associated with the activity/substance
- Individuals may not use the PPE

Training must be provided on the correct use of PPE to those using it.

Where there is a statutory requirement to use PPE, appropriate safety signs must be posted e.g. Work at Height Regulations, Noise at Work Regulations.

An employee cannot be asked to pay for PPE which is used only at work.

COMPATIBILITY OF PPE

Where there is more than one risk and a person is required to wear more than one item of PPE, the PPE should be compatible and effective against the risks.

ASSESSMENT OF PPE

Before choosing any PPE, a risk assessment has to be carried out to ascertain if the proposed PPE is suitable. If a risk assessment of the activity has been carried out under the MHSWR 1999 there is no need to duplicate this in order to meet the requirements of the PPE Regulations, though it should be easily identifiable and cross-referenced. Involvement by employees in the selection of PPE is advisable, wherever possible.

The assessment, or the use of PPE, must be reviewed if it is suspected that it is no longer valid.

MAINTENANCE, REPLACEMENT AND STORAGE OF PPE

PPE must be maintained in an efficient condition which includes the need for examination of non-disposable equipment. A stock of spare equipment, parts and cleaning materials should be available. The employer is also responsible for having available suitable storage facilities to prevent damage to PPE, including that which has been issued.

PPE that has been supplied to an employee free of charge for use at work remains the property of the employer and should be returned after use to the storage place provided by the employer, it should not be used for non-occupational purposes.

INFORMATION, INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING

Those issued with PPE must be given information, instruction, and training in: -

- The risk or risks which the PPE will protect against.
- How and when PPE equipment is to be used.
- How to ensure that the PPE remains in an efficient state, working order and in good repair.

Information and instruction must be clear and comprehensible.

USE OF PPE

PPE should only be used in accordance with the training and instructions given by the employer.

Users of PPE should ensure that the equipment is returned after use to its designated storage area.

REPORTING LOSS OR DEFECT

When an item of PPE becomes broken or is lost, it is the responsibility of the employee to report this immediately to his employer.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992

The Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 2018

The Personal Protective Equipment (Temporary Arrangements) (Coronavirus) (England) Regulation 2020

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk>

Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992. Guidance on Regulations L25 2005

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l25.htm>

A Short Guide to Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992. INDG 174

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg174.pdf>