



Safety Matters

Environmental Health & Safety

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OSHA Makes Changes to PPE Rules



On November 14, 2007, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced changes to the rules on employer-paid personal protective equipment (PPE). While these changes do not require the employer to pay for all PPE, they may make it necessary for managers and supervisors to change their existing departmental policies regarding furnishing of PPE to employees.

Under the newly published rules, employers are not *required* to pay for safety-toed footwear, ordinary prescription safety glasses or weather-related gear. Most other types of PPE that are identified as being necessary for protection of employees from workplace hazards are required to be furnished at no cost to the employee. Questions regarding whether or not a type of PPE is required to be furnished at no cost to the employee should be directed to the OSU EHS Department.

Please remember that workplace surveys should be conducted to identify where hazards that necessitate wearing of PPE exist and that all employees should wear PPE while working in those places. Failure to do so could result in serious injuries or worse.

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