



HUMBERSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

# HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

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## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

<b>Owner</b>	<b>Director of Service Improvement</b>
<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Head of Health and Safety</b>
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## CONTENTS

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [Equality and Inclusion](#)
3. [Risk Assessment](#)
4. [Reducing the Risk](#)
5. [Further Information](#)
  - [Procurement of PPE](#)
  - [Compatibility](#)
  - [Standards of Manufacture](#)
6. [Employee's Duties](#)

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Humberside Fire and Rescue Service acknowledge that the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at Work Regulations 1992 apply to its work activities and will comply with this statutory requirement as a minimum standard.

## **2. EQUALITY AND INCLUSION**

HFRS has a legal responsibility under the Equality Act 2010, and a commitment, to ensure it does not discriminate either directly or indirectly in any of its functions and services nor in its treatment of staff, in relation to race, sex, disability, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, gender reassignment or marriage and civil partnership. It also has a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled applicants, employees and service users.

## **3. RISK ASSESSMENT**

Before choosing any PPE an assessment will be made to determine whether it is suitable for its intended use. When assessing PPE for use, the nature of the job and the demands it places on the individual will be considered. This will include the requirements for visibility and communication and the duration it is likely to be used for.

The assessment will include:

- An assessment of any risks to health and safety that have not been avoided by other means.
- The performance and characteristics that the PPE will need to have to be effective.

## **4. REDUCING THE RISK**

PPE will be used as a risk control measure only as a last resort when all reasonable efforts have been made to implement alternatives.

All personnel who may be required to wear PPE will receive information together with initial and refresher training to enable its effective and safe use.

Theoretical training will be given on the operation, performance and limitations of the PPE and practical training will include donning, wearing and removing it. Where appropriate the testing of PPE before and after use will be included as will maintenance.

The nature of the work when responding to operational emergency incidents is one that is both hazardous and dynamic. In these situations, any PPE used forms part of the safe system of work in controlling the operational tactics employed.

## HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Appropriate actions will be taken when dealing with the following:

- Provision of PPE
- Compatibility of PPE
- Assessment of PPE
- Maintenance and replacement of PPE
- Accommodation for PPE
- Information, instruction and training
- Use of PPE
- Reporting loss or defect

### 5. FURTHER INFORMATION

**Procurement of PPE:** Prior to any purchase of PPE, it will be evaluated through the relevant procedures.

**Compatibility:** Any PPE that is required must be compatible with the other PPE that it may be worn with. This will be tested prior to purchase and during the evaluation stage.

**Standards of manufacture:** The Service will only purchase PPE that complies with the relevant British or European standard.

For further information the Approved Code of Practice can be obtained from the Health and Safety Section.

### 6. EMPLOYEE'S DUTIES

Regulation 10 of the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992 places the following duty on employees:

- Use PPE provided in accordance with training and instruction given  
Regulation 11 of the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992 places the following duty on employees:
- To report to the employer any loss or obvious defect in PPE

Regulation 14 of Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 places the following duties on all employees:

- Using the equipment, safe systems of work and procedures provided by the Service in accordance with training and instruction given.
- Informing their line manager without delay of any situation that may present a serious and imminent danger.

**HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT  
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

- Notifying their line manager of any shortcoming in the health and safety arrangements.

**If you require further guidance on this document, please contact the  
Health, Safety & Environment Section**