



Standards for Personal Protective Equipment

Policy, Standards, & Quality Assurance Section, Environmental Hazards Unit May 2018

Standards for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

§295.2(3) of the Texas Hazard Communication Act (THCA) Rules defines appropriate PPE to be equipment that is provided to an employee by the employer and affords an adequate level of protection from chemicals to which the employee may be exposed. Examples of PPE include items such as gloves, safety/splash proof goggles, respirators, etc. The THCA (Chapter 502 of the Texas Health and Safety Code) requires employers to ensure appropriate selection, fit testing, and functionality of personal protective equipment issued to employees and to provide training on the maintenance and storage of PPE.

The protection given by the use of PPE should be adequate to ensure employee health and safety based on current industry standards. In selecting PPE, the employer shall consider all possible routes of entry, permeability of PPE materials, duties being performed by the employee, hazardous chemicals present, and other factors that may affect equipment performance. The employer must ensure that the equipment properly fits the individual employee and is functional for its intended use as described by the manufacturer's specifications.

§295.12(g) of the THCA Rules guarantees the rights of employees to receive appropriate PPE from their employer. Employers shall provide appropriate PPE to employees who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals in their workplace. The employer shall also provide additional training to employees regarding appropriate maintenance and storage of PPE to ensure that contamination does not occur.

Questions About Personal Protective Equipment?

If you have questions about Personal Protective Equipment or other requirements of the Texas Hazard Communication Act, please contact the Hazard Communication Worker Right-to-Know Program at:

Email: TXHazComHelp@dshs.texas.gov

Phone: 512-834-6787

Fax: 512-834-6726

Mail: Texas Department of State Health Services
Consumer Protection Division
Policy, Standards, & Quality Assurance Section
Environmental Hazards Unit
Hazard Communication Program
P.O. Box 149347, MC 1987
Austin, TX 78714-9347