

## Selection and Use of Personal Protective Equipment

PPE as a control measure should be limited to situations where other higher control measures are not practicable, or where personal protective equipment is used in conjunction with other control measures to increase protection. A [risk assessment](#) should be completed prior to the provision of PPE. Higher levels of control should be identified before the issue of PPE. Departments are responsible for providing and maintaining suitable PPE to staff to protect them from hazards in the workplace. Local area procedures should identify what form of PPE is to be worn. All PPE sold through the Chemistry Store complies with Australian Standards and has an AS number attached to it in the catalogue. As a minimum, lab coats, safety glasses and gloves are to be issued at induction and worn by new staff and students working in labs. Any other forms of PPE that may be required are to be issued by local area supervisors, who should provide training in their use. All staff members are to use PPE as instructed and to notify their supervisor of the need for replacement of PPE. See the Safety Officer for advice on selection, personal fitting, use, cleaning, maintenance and storage of PPE.

**Gloves:** When using chemicals, appropriate gloves are to be worn at all times. Refer to the MSDS or Ansell Chemical Resistance Guide, 7th Ed 2004: for permeation and degradation. Issues about allergies are on their website: [http://www.ansell-edmont.com/download/Ansell\\_7thEditionChemicalResistanceGuide.pdf](http://www.ansell-edmont.com/download/Ansell_7thEditionChemicalResistanceGuide.pdf)

**Lab coats:** These can be purchased through the Chemistry Store. It is a requirement that gowns be worn in labs where there is a risk from chemical, biological or other form of contamination. Lab coats should be laundered at least once a month through the Departmental Laundry Service, or more often for highly contaminating or dirty procedures.

**Safety Glasses/Goggles:** Are available through the Chemistry Store for purchase. It is a requirement that goggles or safety glasses be worn when working in labs where there is a risk to the eyes and face from exposure to material, chemical, biological or other forms of contamination.

**Other PPE:** Follow local area procedures for specific requirements for items such as boots, masks / breathing apparatus, helmets, face shields, hearing protection, coveralls.

**Issuing of PPE and training:** PPE training is provided to new post-graduate students during the Honours Safety Lectures or at induction, but it is the responsibility of local area supervisors to issue PPE for specific requirements, as well as train new staff in its use. Post-graduate students should be issued with lab coats and safety glasses once they have passed the Safety Exam. Undergraduate students are not permitted in labs without lab coats, safety glasses and closed shoes.

**Inspection, maintenance and replacement:** PPE should be inspected regularly, daily in some cases, or generally during the quarterly Workplace Inspection process. Reviews of the need for and adequacy of PPE should be conducted simultaneously. All reviews will be in consultation with employees using the PPE.

**Requirements for Health Monitoring:** Where staff are using PPE for protection of eyes, hearing or breathing, there may be a requirement for that staff member to undergo regular health monitoring through Occupational Health. Please refer to Section 8.4.1 Medical Surveillance Programs. (See the Safety Officer for scheduling of Health Surveillance). This may be the case where staff are using the following equipment:

- Hearing protection for plant or other equipment
- Goggles for use with lasers and other bright equipment

**Public areas:** Laboratory coats, gloves and other protective clothing are not to be worn in amenities rooms. Gloves are not to be worn when coming into contact with public access areas such as the Store counter, stair handrails, door knobs, lift buttons etc, to avoid cross contamination.