

Required Body and Limb PPE – Know the Laws of Your Province



While workers are normally responsible for providing their own general purpose work gloves and safety footwear, including protection from the cold, employers may have to supply special forms of hand, foot, arm, leg and skin protection required to carry out the work safely, such as rubber insulating gloves and leather aprons for electrical work. Operations requiring special PPE may include:

- Work on energized equipment where it's impractical to isolate and lock out the energy source;
- Handling of hazardous chemicals such as storage batteries that contain dangerous acids;
- Handling of broken glass, sharp edges and other materials or surfaces that may cause cuts, punctures or abrasions;
- Operating chain saws, jack hammers or other tools or equipment that emanate potentially unsafe levels of hand and arm vibration;
- Handling of extremely cold or hot objects; and
- Industrial fire-fighting.

OHS PPE requirements for body and limb protection are generally less detailed than for other forms of PPE. The exception is BC, where workers operating chain saws must use leg protection that meets very strict technical standards. Here's a summary of the specific requirements in each part of Canada.

Go to the OHS Insider website for a complete OHS [body and limb PPE protection compliance game plan](#).

FEDERAL

1. If it's not feasible to eliminate or reduce a health or safety hazard to safe limits, every person granted access to the work place and exposed to that hazard must use required PPE;
2. PPE provided or used must be designed to protect against hazard in question and not in itself create a hazard;
3. All PPE provided by an employer must: (a) be properly stored and maintained, inspected and, if applicable, tested by a qualified person in accordance with manufacturer's instructions to ensure it's in good operating condition; (b) for equipment worn by a person, (i) be safely and properly fitted to each user by a qualified person in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, and (ii) if necessary to prevent a health hazard, be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition by a qualified person in accordance with manufacturer's instructions (*COHS Regs.*, Secs. 12.03 to 05); and
4. No specific requirements for body and limb protection.

ALBERTA

If there's danger that a worker's hand, arm, leg or torso may be injured, employer must ensure that worker wears properly fitting hand, arm, leg or body PPE that's appropriate to the work, work site and hazards identified (*OHS Code*, Sec. 242)

BRITISH COLUMBIA

1. Employer must provide appropriate skin, hand, foot or body protection if worker is exposed to a substance or condition likely to puncture, abrade or otherwise adversely affect the skin, or be absorbed through it;
2. If there's danger of injury, contamination or infection to worker's hands, arms, legs or torso, worker must wear properly fitting protective equipment appropriate to work being done and hazards involved.
3. Workers operating a chain saw must wear leg protective devices that meet or exceed: (a) general requirements of section 4 of WorkSafeBC Standard – Leg Protective Devices, listed in Schedule 8-A of OHS Regs; (b) the performance requirements of one of the following standards, using the cut-resistance testing protocol set out in that standard: (i) WorkSafeBC Standard – Leg Protective Devices, set out in section 5 of Schedule 8-A, applying a threshold chain speed of 18.3 metres per second or 3,600 feet per minute; (ii) ASTM F 1414-04 Standard Test Method for Measurement of Cut Resistance to Chain Saw in Lower Body (Legs) Protective Clothing, but applying a threshold chain speed of 16.8 metres per second or 3,300 feet per minute; (iii) ISO 11393-2 Protective clothing for users of hand-held chain-saws – Part 2: Test methods and performance requirements for leg protectors, applying a Class 2 threshold chain speed of 24 metres per second or 4,724 feet per minute; (iv) BS EN 381-5:1995 Protective clothing for users of hand-held chain saws – Part 5: Requirements for leg protectors, applying a Class 2 threshold chain speed of 24 metres per second or 4,724 feet per minute;
4. Leg protective device worn by a worker must have a label that: (a) is

permanently affixed, (b) uses lettering at least 6 mm (1/4 in) high, and (c) clearly indicates all of the following information: (i) the name or trademark of the manufacturer; (ii) the standard met or exceeded under subsection (3)(a) above; (iii) the standard met or exceeded under subsection (3)(b); (iv) the year of manufacture of device unless otherwise marked on the device;

5. Requirement to wear leg protective devices doesn't apply to a firefighter using a chain saw at the scene of a structural fire (*OHS Regs.*, Secs. 8.19 and 8.21);
6. When a worker is exposed to hand-arm vibration, employer must, to extent practicable, ensure that the worker's hands or arms aren't exposed to cold, either from the environment in which the worker is working or as a result of using equipment, or from coming into contact with cold objects (Sec. 7.31); and
7. Worker involved in welding or burning operations must wear, among other things, arm protection and an apron of leather or other suitable material for heavy work (Sec. 12.123)

MANITOBA

Employer must provide a worker with hand, arm, leg or body protective equipment that's appropriate for the risk and to the workplace if there's a risk of injury to the worker's hands, arms, legs or torso (*WSH Regs.*, Sec. 6.14)

NEW BRUNSWICK

An employee exposed to a hazard that may injure the skin, must use, as necessary: (a) adequate protective gloves, (b) adequate protective boots or wooden clogs, (c) adequate body covering, (d) adequate eye protection, (e) a barrier cream or oil to prevent irritation to exposed parts of the body, or (f) other protective equipment sufficient to provide protection from the hazard (*OHS Regs.*, Sec. 42)

NEWFOUNDLAND

1. Worker must wear properly fitting protective equipment appropriate to the work and hazards involved if there's a danger of injury, contamination or infection to the worker's skin, hands, feet or body; and
2. Worker operating a chain saw must wear a leg protective device with a label permanently affixed to the outer surface of the device indicating the standard it meets (*OHS Regs.*, Secs. 78 and 79)

NOVA SCOTIA

If a person is exposed to a hazard that may injure the skin, employer must ensure that adequate protection is worn or used (*Occ. Safety Gen. Regs.*, Sec. 12(2))

ONTARIO

Industrial Establishments: A worker exposed to risk of injury from skin contact with, (a) a noxious gas, liquid, fume or dust; (b) a sharp or jagged object which may puncture, cut or abrade the worker's skin; (c) a hot object, hot liquid or molten metal; or (d) radiant heat, must be protected by, (e) wearing apparel sufficient to protect the worker from injury; or (f) a shield, screen or similar barrier, appropriate in the circumstances. (*OHS Indust. Ests. Regs.*, Sec. 84)

Construction Projects:

1. A worker must wear such protective clothing and use such PPE or devices necessary to protect the worker against the hazards to which the worker may be exposed;
2. Employer must require worker to comply with subsection (1);
3. A worker required to wear protective clothing or use PPE or devices must be adequately instructed and trained in its care and use before wearing or using it;
4. PPE and protective clothing must be a proper fit, having regard to all relevant factors including body types; and
5. Worker must use protection appropriate in the circumstances when there's a risk of injury on a project from contact between the worker's skin and, (a) a noxious gas, liquid, fume or dust; (b) an object that may puncture, cut or abrade the skin; (c) a hot object, hot liquid or molten metal; or (d) radiant heat (*OHS Const. Projects Regs.*, Secs. 21 and 25)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Employer must ensure that all persons handling materials likely to puncture, abrade or irritate hands or arms, wear PPE to prevent such injuries, unless use of the equipment introduces equal or greater hazards (*OHS Gen. Regs.*, Sec. 45.13)

QUÉBEC

1. Wearing protective equipment suited to the type of work performed such as a hood, apron, leggings, protective sleeves and gloves is mandatory for all workers exposed to burning objects or objects with sharp edges or dangerous projections, splashes of molten metals or in contact with dangerous or infectious substances (*OHS Regs.*, Sec. 345); and
2. Employer must that any worker exposed to dust raised by abrasive air blast cleaning wears an air-supplied abrasive hood in compliance with Division VI, gloves, leg protectors and clothing designed to ensure protection from dust and abrasive or metal projections (*OHS Regs.*, Sec. 69)

SASKATCHEWAN

1. If a worker is at risk of a cut, puncture, irritation or abrasion to the lower body, including a worker operating a chain saw, employer or

contractor must ensure that worker uses safety pants or chaps appropriate for work performed; and

2. Employer or contractor must provide, and require worker to use, suitable and properly fitted hand or arm protection to protect from injury to the hand or arm, including: (a) injury arising from contact with chemical or biological substances; (b) injury arising from exposure to work processes that result in extreme temperatures; (c) injury arising from prolonged exposure to water; and (d) puncture, abrasion or irritation of the skin mucous membranes to the hazardous material or substance; and
3. Employer or contractor must ensure that a worker who operates a grinder is provided with and uses an industrial eye or face protector and hand or arm protection (*OHS Regs.*, Secs. 7-10, 7-12 and 10-12)

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES & NUNAVUT

1. Employer must require a worker who's at risk of a cut, puncture, irritation or abrasion to the lower body to use safety pants or chaps that are suitable for the work performed;
2. Employer must provide, and require worker to use, suitable and properly fitted hand or arm protection to protect from injury to the hand or arm, including: (a) injury arising from exposure to chemical or biological substances; (b) injury arising from exposure to work processes that result in extreme temperatures; (c) injury arising from prolonged exposure to water; and (d) puncture, abrasion or irritation of the skin; and
3. Employer must ensure that a worker who operates a grinder is provided with and uses an industrial eye or face protector and hand or arm protection (*OHS Regs.*, Secs. 98, 101 and 102)

YUKON

1. Appropriate skin, hand, foot or body protection must be provided if a worker may be exposed to a substance or a condition that may puncture, abrade, burn, corrode, electrically shock or otherwise adversely affect the skin or be absorbed through it; and
2. Leg protective devices meeting the requirements of "Protective Devices for Chainsaw Users" of Standard Council of Canada or other similar standard acceptable to the board must be provided to a worker operating a chain saw, except where a firefighter uses a chainsaw in a structural fire (*WSC Regs.*, Secs. 1.14 and 1.16)