

YUKON

CANADA

Whitehorse, Yukon

WORKERS' COMPENSATION
HEALTH AND SAFETY BOARD
CODE OF PRACTICE 2012/01

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) USE IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Yukon *Occupational Health and Safety Act* R.S.Y. 2002 (the *Act*) the Board of Directors of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board approves and issues the following order to provide practical guidance with respect to the legal requirements to wear personal protective equipment (PPE).

1. This Code of Practice applies to the construction of any permanent or temporary structure forming an enclosure and providing protection from the elements and includes; residential buildings, commercial buildings, schools, houses, recreational structures and facilities, industrial facilities, or any similar structures hereafter referred to as Building Construction projects.

Background

Introduction

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board is committed to prevent disability by ensuring all workers have a healthy and safe Yukon work environment. Elimination of hazards, engineering controls, and administrative controls (including safe work practices and procedures) must be evaluated and used to reduce risk/prevent injury whenever possible, before considering using PPE. PPE is the last line of defence, but is one of the ways to ensure that workers exposed to the hazards associated with Building Construction projects are adequately protected from workplace hazards.

This Code of Practice must be read in conjunction with the following sections of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations*.

The following sections of the *Act* are relevant for this Code of Practice:

- 1 Interpretation
- 2 Application of the Act
- 3 Employer's duties
- 4 Constructor's duties
- 6 Owner's duties
- 7 Supervisor's duties
- 9 Employee's duties
- 10 Self-employed person's duties

The following sections of the *Regulations* are relevant for this Code of Practice:

- 1.04 Eliminate or control hazards
- 1.08 Workers' responsibility to provide and wear (protective equipment and clothing)
- 1.09 Protective equipment and clothing – General
- 1.13 Protective equipment and clothing – Footwear
- 1.14 Protective equipment and clothing – Skin, leg and body
- 1.48 High visibility headwear and safety apparel

Code of Practice

1. This Code of Practice explains the required use of PPE on Building Construction projects.
2. This Code of Practice is to ensure employers*, supervisors and workers working on Building Construction projects recognize hazards and determine the ways they may best comply with their obligations under *the Occupational Health and Safety Act and regulations*.
3. This Code of Practice recognizes the need for workers to use and wear appropriate PPE at all times when working on a Building Construction project.

*a property owner and/or constructor as defined under the *OH&S Act* may also be an employer for the purposes of the OH&S regulations and this Code of Practice. For more information please arrange a pre project meeting with a Safety Officer at (867) 667- 5450 prior to commencing your Building Construction project.*

Hazard Assessment and Mitigation

4. Prior to commencing a Building Construction project and on an ongoing basis as conditions change, an employer must conduct a hazard assessment to ensure that any hazards to which workers are exposed have been mitigated to the degree possible, through such means as elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls, and selection and provisioning of appropriate PPE.
5. The employer shall ensure that workers wear the required PPE at all times on a Building Construction project.

Clothing

6. The following clothing are the minimum acceptable for workers on a Building Construction project:
 - a) Long pants free of excessive wear (rips, torn cuffs, dragging material, large holes etc.); and
 - b) Long sleeve shirts free of excessive wear as described above.
 - c) Shorts and/or short sleeve shirts, free of excessive wear, may be worn if the hazard assessment in 4. clearly demonstrates that workers are not, and will not be, exposed to a substance or a condition that may puncture, abrade, burn (including sunburn), corrode, electrically shock or otherwise adversely affect the skin or be absorbed through it.

Foot Protection

7. Safety footwear shall be worn on a Building Construction project at all times unless the hazard assessment in 4. clearly demonstrates that workers are not, and will not be, exposed to crushing potential, corrosive substances, puncture hazards, electrical shock or other hazards that would require safety footwear.

Safety Headwear

8. Safety headwear shall be worn on a Building Construction project at all times unless the hazard assessment in 4. clearly demonstrates that workers are not, and will not be, exposed to a danger of injury to the head from falling, flying or thrown objects or any other contacts.

High Visibility Apparel

9. High visibility apparel (including high visibility safety headwear) shall be worn on a Building Construction project at all times unless the hazard assessment in 4. clearly demonstrates that workers are not, and will not be:
- (a) exposed to the hazards of moving vehicles or equipment;
 - (b) directing traffic on a public way, or
 - (c) endangered by vehicular traffic on a public way.

Safety Eyewear

10. Safety eyewear shall be worn on a Building Construction project at all times unless the hazard assessment in 4. clearly demonstrates that workers are not, and will not be:
- (a) handling, using or exposed to materials or substances that may injure the eyes;
 - (b) engaged in or is around work or processes where objects or particles may fly, be thrown about or otherwise cause danger of impact with the eyes;
 - (c) exposed to excessive light, heat rays, electric arcs or similar hazards;
 - (d) working on or testing energized electrical equipment; or
 - (e) working with laser beams.

Hearing Protection

11. Workers shall have hearing protective equipment with them at all times on a Building Construction project unless the hazard assessment in 4. clearly demonstrates that workers are not, and will not be, exposed to noise from:
- (a) operating saws;
 - (b) hammering;
 - (c) air nailing;
 - (d) sheet metal working;
 - (e) riveting; or
 - (f) any other activity that results in noise in excess of the occupational exposure limits.
12. Workers shall wear hearing protection equipment on a Building Construction project at all times when they are exposed to noise from the tasks outlines in 11. (a) – (f).

This Code of Practice was approved by the Board of Directors to come into force June 1, 2012.