

Statewide Geotechnical (Aust) Pty Ltd

Personal Protective Clothing & Equipment Policy

Minimum Requirements for Operating Plant and Equipment

1.0 Footwear

The minimum standard for footwear on all sites is lace-up boots with steel toe caps. These boots provide essential ankle support, reducing the likelihood of strains and sprains due to uneven or unstable walking surfaces. The steel toe caps offer protection against crush injuries from falling objects (such as rocks) and mobile plant wheels.

All personnel on drilling sites are required to wear approved steel-toe cap boots at all times.

2.0 Hard Hats

All personnel must wear a hard hat, properly adjusted, at all times, except when inside a building or in designated safe areas as specified by the Site Manager. Hard hats should comply with the following standards:

- AS/NZS 1801:1997: Occupational Protective Helmets
- AS/NZS 1800:1998: Occupational Protective Helmets – Selection, Care, and Use

Note: All safety helmets have an expiry date beyond which they no longer meet Australian Standards.

3.0 High visibility clothing

Due to the high risk of personnel being struck by mobile plant and/or light vehicles, all personnel are required to wear high visibility clothing from ankle to wrist, made from cotton or natural fibers. This clothing improves visibility and enhances the ability of vehicle operators to see and avoid individuals.

- Day/night high visibility trousers, shirts, and overalls for work on the electricity network must be a minimum of 185gsm natural fiber or at least Category 1 fire-resistant (FR). All outer garments must meet relevant Australian and industry standards. For gas sites, all clothing must be anti-static.
- All high visibility clothing must conform to:
 - AS/NZS 4602:1999: High Visibility Safety Garments
- All night-time high visibility clothing must conform to:
 - AS/NZS 1906.4:1997: Retro-reflective Materials and Devices for Road Traffic Control Purposes – High Visibility Materials for Safety Garments

Given the prolonged exposure to the sun, particularly during summer, it is essential to take responsibility for protecting oneself from harmful UV rays, which can lead to skin cancer.

4.0 Safety Glasses

Safety glasses must meet AS/NZS 1337.1, or where prescription safety glasses are required, they should have plastic frames with side shields or equivalent, complying with AS/NZS 1337.6. Alternatively, safety goggles or glasses should be worn over prescription eyewear.

Eye protection, including safety glasses, goggles, or masks, must be worn at all times when working on or near the work area of a drill rig.

5.0 Hard Working Gloves

Hard-working gloves must be worn during all tasks, except where:

- Gloves interfere with task performance (e.g., when high dexterity is needed, such as handling small parts).
- Gloves present a risk, such as entanglement when using rotating tools.
- The work is confined to the operation of an enclosed cabin mobile plant.
- Specialized gloves (e.g., HV/LV gloves) are required for specific tasks.

6.0 Hearing Protection

Hearing protection must be worn when exposure to noise exceeds 85 dB(A) averaged over an eight-hour period or peak noise levels exceed 140 dB(C). As a general guideline, if you must raise your voice to be heard at a distance of 1 meter, the noise level is too high, and hearing protection is required. Hearing protection is necessary in the following situations:

Use of noisy tools, such as angle grinders, chainsaws, and jackhammers.

Work near drilling rigs, excavators, rock breakers, and other noisy mobile plant.

Work in plant rooms, near generators, or with noisy fixed plant.

Prolonged exposure to excessive noise can lead to permanent hearing loss, which may not be immediately noticeable due to the gradual nature of the deterioration.

7.0 Face Masks

Face masks must be worn where a risk assessment identifies potential exposure to airborne contaminants or dust. Respiratory protection can range from simple disposable respirators to supplied air breathing apparatus, depending on the nature of the hazard. The appropriate protection should be determined through a risk assessment and may require expert advice.

Respiratory protection is required in the following situations:

- Work involving asbestos or the risk of disturbing asbestos materials (P2 type protection as a minimum).
 - Work in dusty environments or tasks that generate dust (P1 type protection as a minimum).
 - Welding or gas cutting where fumes are not otherwise controlled.
 - Work with chemicals where the SDS specifies respiratory protection requirements (protection type as per SDS).
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- Work in confined spaces with potential exposure to airborne contaminants, oxygen depletion, or enrichment.

8.0 Snake Gaiters

Snake gaiters are required when working in high-risk areas.

9.0 Sunscreen

Sunburn can occur even on cloudy days, as clouds block infra-red radiation but not UV radiation, which causes sunburn and increases the risk of skin cancer. To reduce the risk of sunburn and the potential for skin cancer, a minimum of SPF 30+ sunscreen should be applied to exposed skin not covered by the minimum dress standard. Skin cancer can be fatal, so it is essential to observe these protective measures.