

Council Directive of 30 November 1989 on the minimum health and safety requirements for the use by workers of personal protective equipment at the workplace (third individual directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC) (89/656/EEC)

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

of 30 November 1989

on the minimum health and safety requirements for the use by workers of personal protective equipment at the workplace (third individual directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC)

(89/656/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and in particular Article 118a thereof,

Having regard to the Commission proposal⁽¹⁾, submitted after consultation with the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work,

In cooperation with the European Parliament⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee⁽³⁾,

Whereas Article 118a of the Treaty provides that the Council shall adopt, by means of directives, minimum requirements designed to encourage improvements, especially in the working environment, to guarantee greater protection of the health and safety of workers;

Whereas, under the said Article, such directives shall avoid imposing administrative, financial and legal constraints in a way which would hold back the creation and development of small and medium-sized undertakings;

Whereas the Commission communication on its programme concerning safety, hygiene and health at work⁽⁴⁾ provides for the adoption of a directive on the use of personal protective equipment at work;

Whereas the Council, in its resolution of 21 December 1987 concerning safety, hygiene and health at work⁽⁵⁾, noted the Commission's intention of submitting to it in the near future minimum requirements concerning the organization of the safety and health of workers at work;

Whereas compliance with the minimum requirements designed to guarantee greater health and safety for the user of personal protective equipment is essential to ensure the safety and health of workers;

Whereas this Directive is an individual directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Council Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work⁽⁶⁾; whereas, consequently, the

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provisions of the said Directive apply fully to the use by workers of personal protective equipment at the workplace, without prejudice to more stringent and/or specific provisions contained in this Directive;

Whereas this Directive constitutes a practical step towards the achievement of the social dimension of the internal market;

Whereas collective means of protection shall be accorded priority over individual protective equipment; whereas the employer shall be required to provide safety equipment and take safety measures;

Whereas the requirements laid down in this Directive should not entail alterations to personal protective equipment whose design and manufacture complied with Community directives relating to safety and health at work;

Whereas provision should be made for descriptions which Member States may use when laying down general rules for the use of individual protective equipment;

Whereas, pursuant to Decision 74/325/EEC⁽⁷⁾, as last amended by the 1985 Act of Accession, the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work is consulted by the Commission with a view to drawing up proposals in this field,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

SECTION I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject

1 This Directive, which is the third individual directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC, lays down minimum requirements for personal protective equipment used by workers at work.

2 The provisions of Directive 89/391/EEC are fully applicable to the whole scope referred to in paragraph 1, without prejudice to more [^{X1}stringent] and/or specific provisions contained in this Directive.

Editorial Information

- X1** Substituted by [Corrigendum to Council Directive 89/656/EEC of 30 November 1989 concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the use by workers of personal protective equipment at the workplace \(third individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16 \(1\) of Directive 89/391/EEC\)](#) (Official Journal of the European Communities No L 393 of 30 December 1989).

Article 2

Definition

1 For the purposes of this Directive, personal protective equipment shall mean all equipment designed to be worn or held by the worker to protect him against one or more hazards likely to endanger his safety and health at work, and any addition or accessory designed to meet this objective.

2 The definition in paragraph 1 excludes:

- a ordinary working clothes and uniforms not specifically designed to protect the safety and health of the worker;
- b equipment used by emergency and rescue services;
- c personal protective equipment worn or used by the military, the police and other public order agencies;
- d personal protective equipment for means of road transport;
- e sports equipment;
- f self-defence or deterrent equipment;
- g portable devices for detecting and signalling risks and nuisances.

Article 3

General rule

Personal protective equipment shall be used when the risks cannot be avoided or sufficiently limited by technical means of collective protection or by measures, methods or procedures of work organization.

SECTION II

EMPLOYERS' OBLIGATIONS

Article 4

General provisions

1 Personal protective equipment must comply with the relevant Community provisions on design and manufacture with respect to safety and health.

All personal protective equipment must:

- a be appropriate for the risks involved, without itself leading to any increased risk;
- b correspond to existing conditions at the workplace;
- c take account of ergonomic requirements and the worker's state of health;
- d fit the wearer correctly after any necessary adjustment.

2 Where the presence of more than one risk makes it necessary for a worker to wear simultaneously more than one item of personal protective equipment, such equipment must be compatible and continue to be effective against the risk or risks in question.

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3 The conditions of use of personal protective equipment, in particular the period for which it is worn, shall be determined on the basis of the seriousness of the risk, the frequency of exposure to the risk, the characteristics of the workstation of each worker and the performance of the personal protective equipment.

4 Personal protective equipment is, in principle, intended for personal use.

If the circumstances require personal protective equipment to be worn by more than one person, appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure that such use does not create any health or hygiene problem for the different users.

5 Adequate information on each item of personal protective equipment, required under paragraphs 1 and 2, shall be provided and made available within the undertaking and/or establishment.

6 Personal protective equipment shall be provided free of charge by the employer, who shall ensure its good working order and satisfactory hygienic condition by means of the necessary maintenance, repair and replacements.

However, Member States may provide, in accordance with their national practice, that the worker be asked to contribute towards the cost of certain personal protective equipment in circumstances where use of the equipment is not exclusive to the workplace.

7 The employer shall first inform the worker of the risks against which the wearing of the personal protective equipment protects him.

8 The employer shall arrange for training and shall, if appropriate, organize demonstrations in the wearing of personal protective equipment.

9 Personal protective equipment may be used only for the purposes specified, except in specific and exceptional circumstances.

It must be used in accordance with instructions.

Such instructions must be understandable to the workers.

Article 5

Assessment of personal protective equipment

1 Before choosing personal protective equipment, the employer is required to assess whether the personal protective equipment he intends to use satisfies the requirements of Article 4(1) and (2).

This assessment shall involve:

- a an analysis and assessment of risks which cannot be avoided by other means;
- b the definition of the characteristics which personal protective equipment must have in order to be effective against the risks referred to in (a), taking into account any risks which this equipment itself may create;
- c comparison of the characteristics of the personal protective equipment available with the characteristics referred to in (b).

2 The assessment provided for in paragraph 1 shall be reviewed if any changes are made to any of its elements.

Article 6⁽⁸⁾

Rules for use

1 Without prejudice to Articles 3, 4 and 5, Member States shall ensure that general rules are established for the use of personal protective equipment and/or rules covering cases and situations where the employer must provide the personal protective equipment, taking account of Community legislation on the free movement of such equipment.

These rules shall indicate in particular the circumstances or the risk situations in which, without prejudice to the priority to be given to collective means of protection, the use of personal protective equipment is necessary.

Annexes I, II and III, which constitute a guide, contain useful information for establishing such rules.

2 When Member States adapt the rules referred to in paragraph 1, they shall take account of any significant changes to the risk, collective means of protection and personal protective equipment brought about by technological developments.

3 Member States shall consult the employers' and workers' organization on the rules referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.

Article 7

Information for workers

Without prejudice to Article 10 of Directive 89/391/EEC, workers and/or their representatives shall be informed of all measures to be taken with regard to the health and safety of workers when personal protective equipment is used by workers at work.

Article 8

Consultation of workers and workers' participation

Consultation and participation of workers and/or of their representatives shall take place in accordance with Article 11 of Directive 89/391/EEC on the matters covered by this Directive, including the Annexes thereto.

SECTION III

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

[^{F1}Article 9

Amendments to the Annexes

The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 9a to make strictly technical amendments to the Annexes, in order to take account of technical harmonisation and standardisation relating to personal protective equipment, technical

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progress, changes in international regulations or specifications and knowledge in the field of personal protective equipment.

Where, in duly justified and exceptional cases involving imminent, direct and serious risks to workers' and other persons' physical health and safety, imperative grounds of urgency require action in a very short timeframe, the procedure provided for in Article 9b shall apply to delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Article.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1243 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 adapting a number of legal acts providing for the use of the regulatory procedure with scrutiny to Articles 290 and 291 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).

[^{F2}Article 9a

Exercise of the delegation

1 The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.

2 The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article 9 shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of five years from 26 July 2019. The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power not later than nine months before the end of the five-year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of an identical duration, unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.

3 The delegation of power referred to in Article 9 may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the *Official Journal of the European Union* or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

4 Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making⁽⁹⁾.

5 As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.

6 A delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 9 shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Textual Amendments

- F2** Inserted by [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1243 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 adapting a number of legal acts providing for the use of the regulatory procedure with scrutiny](#)

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to Articles 290 and 291 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Text with EEA relevance).

Article 9b

Urgency procedure

1 Delegated acts adopted under this Article shall enter into force without delay and shall apply as long as no objection is expressed in accordance with paragraph 2. The notification of a delegated act to the European Parliament and the Council shall state the reasons for the use of the urgency procedure.

2 Either the European Parliament or the Council may object to a delegated act in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 9a(6). In such a case, the Commission shall repeal the act immediately following the notification of the decision to object by the European Parliament or by the Council.]

Textual Amendments

F2 Inserted by Regulation (EU) 2019/1243 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 adapting a number of legal acts providing for the use of the regulatory procedure with scrutiny to Articles 290 and 291 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Text with EEA relevance).

Article 10

Final provisions

1 Member States shall bring; into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive not later than 31 December 1992. They shall immediately inform the Commission thereof.

2 Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the provisions of national law which they adopt, as well as those already adopted, in the field covered by this Directive.

F33

F34

Textual Amendments

F3 Deleted by Directive 2007/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2007 amending Council Directive 89/391/EEC, its individual Directives and Council Directives 83/477/EEC, 91/383/EEC, 92/29/EEC and 94/33/EC with a view to simplifying and rationalising the reports on practical implementation (Text with EEA relevance).

Article 11

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

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ANNEX II

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[F4] ANNEX I

RISKS IN RELATION TO THE BODY PARTS TO BE PROTECTED BY PPE (*)

(*) This list of risks/parts of the body cannot be expected to be exhaustive.
The risk assessment will determine the need to provide a PPE and its characteristics according to the provisions of this Directive.

Textual Amendments

F4 Substituted by Commission Directive 2019/1832 of 24 October 2019 amending Annexes I, II and III to Council Directive 89/656/EEC as regards purely technical adjustments.

		RISKS																						
		PHYSICAL						CHEMICAL (including nanomaterial) (*)						BIOLOGICAL AGENTS (contained in)						OTHER RISKS				
		MECHANICAL					NOISE	THERMAL		ELECTRICAL		RADIATION		AEROSOLS		LIQUIDS	GASES AND VAPOURS	AEROSOLS	LIQUIDS	MATERIALS, PERSONS, ANIMALS, ETC.	DROWNING	OXYGEN deficiency	NON-VISIBILITY	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	Heat and/or fire	Cold	Electric shock (8)	Static electricity	Non-ionizing (9)	Ionizing	Solid (10)	Liquid (11)	Immersion	Splashes, sprays, jets	Solids and liquids	Direct and indirect contact	Splashes, sprays, jets	Direct and indirect contact					
PARTS OF THE BODY TO BE PROTECTED	Head																							
	Whole head																							
	Ears																							
	Eyes																							
	Face																							
	Respiratory system																							
	Hands																							
	Arms (parts)																							
	Foot																							
	Legs (parts)																							
	Skin																							
	Trunk/Abdomen																							
	Partial body																							
	Whole body																							

(1) Impact caused by falling or ejected objects, collision with an obstacle and high-pressure jets
 (2) Falls due to slipping
 (3) Falls from a height
 (4) Vibration
 (5) Static compression of parts of the body
 (6) Mechanical injuries (abrasion, perforation, cuts, bites, wounds or stabs)
 (7) Entanglement and trapping
 (8) Direct or indirect contact
 (9) Including sunlight (other than direct observation)
 (10) Dusts, fumes, smokes and fibres
 (11) Mists and fogs
 (*) See Recommendation 2011/696/EU on the definition of nanomaterial

[F4] ANNEX II

NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF TYPES OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WITH REGARD TO THE RISKS THEY PROVIDE PROTECTION AGAINST
Equipment for HEAD PROTECTION

- Helmets and/or caps/balaclavas/headgears against:
 - Impacts caused by falling or ejected object
 - Collision with an obstacle
 - Mechanical risks (perforation, abrasion)
 - Static compression (lateral crushing)
 - Thermal risks (fire, heat, cold, hot solids including molten metals)
 - Electric shock and live working
 - Chemical risks
 - Non-ionizing radiation (UV, IR, solar or welding radiation)

— Hairnets against risk of entanglement

Equipment for HEARING PROTECTION

- Earmuffs (including e.g. earmuffs attached to a helmet, active noise reduction earmuffs, earmuffs with electrical audio input)
- Earplugs (including e.g. level-dependent earplugs, earplugs adapted to the individual)

Equipment for EYE AND FACE PROTECTION

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- Spectacles, goggles and face shields (prescription lenses where appropriate) against:
 - Mechanical risks
 - Thermal risks
 - Non-ionizing radiation (UV, IR, solar or welding radiation)
 - Ionizing radiation
 - Solid aerosols and liquids of chemical and biological agents

Equipment for RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

- Filtering devices against:
 - Particles
 - Gases
 - Particles and gases
 - Solid and/or liquid aerosols
- Insulating devices, including with an air supply
- Self-rescue devices
- Diving equipment

Equipment for HAND AND ARM PROTECTION

- Gloves (including mittens and arm protection) against:
 - Mechanical risks
 - Thermal risks (heat, flame and cold)
 - Electric shock and live working (antistatic, conductive, insulating)
 - Chemical risks
 - Biological agents
 - Ionizing radiation and radioactive contamination
 - Non-ionizing radiation (UV, IR, solar or welding radiation)
 - Vibration risks
- Finger stalls

Equipment for FOOT AND LEG PROTECTION and anti-slip protection

- Footwear (e.g. shoes, including in certain circumstances clogs, boots that may have steel toe-caps) to protect against:
 - Mechanical risks
 - Slipping risks
 - Thermal risks (heat, flame and cold)
 - Electric shock and live working (antistatic, conductive, insulating)
 - Chemicals risks
 - Vibration risks
 - Biological risks
- Removable instep protectors against mechanical risks
- Kneepads against mechanical risks
- Gaiters against mechanical, thermal and chemical risks and biological agents
- Accessories (e.g. spikes, crampons)

SKIN PROTECTION — BARRIER CREAMS⁽¹⁰⁾

- There could be barrier creams to protect against:
 - Non ionizing radiation (UV, IR, solar or welding radiation)
 - Ionizing radiation
 - Chemicals
 - Biological agents

- Thermal risks (heat, flame and cold)

Equipment for BODY PROTECTION/OTHER SKIN PROTECTION

- Personal protective equipment for protection against falls from a height, such as retractable type fall arresters, full body harnesses, sit harnesses, belts for work positioning and restraint and work positioning lanyards, energy absorbers, guided-type fall arresters including an anchor line, rope adjustment devices, anchor devices that are not designed to be permanently fixed and that do not require fastening works before use, connectors, lanyards, rescue harness
- Protective clothing, including whole body (i.e. suits, overalls) protection and partial body (i.e. gaiters, trousers, jackets, waistcoats, aprons, kneepads, hoods, balaclavas) protection against:
 - Mechanical risks
 - Thermal risks (heat, flame and cold)
 - Chemicals
 - Biological agents
 - Ionizing radiation and radioactive contamination
 - Non-ionizing radiation (UV, IR, solar or welding radiation)
 - Electric shock and live working (antistatic, conductive, insulating)
 - Entanglement and trapping
- Lifejackets for prevention of drowning and buoyancy aids
- PPE for signalling the user's presence visually]

[^{F4}ANNEX III

NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF ACTIVITIES AND SECTORS OF ACTIVITY WHICH MAY REQUIRE THE PROVISION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (*)

() The risk assessment will determine the need to provide a PPE and its characteristics according to the provisions of this Directive*

I. PHYSICAL RISKS

Risks	Body part affected Type of PPE	Examples of activities where the use of the corresponding type of PPE may be necessary (*)	Industry and Sectors
PHYSICAL — MECHANICAL			
Impact caused by falling or ejected objects, collision with an obstacle and high-pressure jets	Cranium Protective helmet	— Work on, underneath or in the vicinity of scaffolding and elevated workplaces	— Building construction — Civil engineering construction — Machinery manufacturing, installation and maintenance
		— Carcase Work and road work	— Shipbuilding

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—	Formwork's erection and stripping	—	Mining works
—	Scaffolding's assembly and installation	—	Energy production
—	Assembly and installation works	—	Infrastructure construction and maintenance
—	Demolitions	—	Iron and Steel industry
—	Blasting works	—	Slaughterhouses
—	Work in pits, trenches, shafts and tunnels	—	Railway shunting work
—	Work in the vicinity of lifts, lifting gear, cranes, and conveyors	—	Harbours, transport and logistics
—	Works in underground workings, quarries, open diggings	—	Forest Industry
—	Work with industrial furnaces, containers, machinery, silos, bunkers and pipelines		
—	Slaughtering and Cutting line at slaughterhouses		
—	Load handling or Transport and storage		
—	Forest work		
—	Work on steel bridges, steel building		

	—	construction, steel hydraulic structures, blast furnaces, steel works and rolling mills, large containers, large pipelines, boiler plants and power stations	
	—	Earth and rock works	
	—	Work with bolt-driving tools	
	—	Work with blast furnaces, direct reduction plants, steelworks, rolling mills, metalworks, forging, drop forging and casting	
	—	Work involving travelling on bicycles and mechanically propelled bikes	
Eyes and/or face Spectacles, goggles and face shields	—	Welding, grinding and separating work	— Building construction
	—	Manual hammering	— Civil engineering construction
	—	Caulking and chiselling	— Machinery manufacturing, installation and maintenance
	—		— Shipbuilding

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	—	Rock working and processing	—	Mining works
	—	Work with bolt-driving tools	—	Energy production
	—	Work on stock removing machines for small chippings	—	Infrastructure construction and maintenance
	—	Drop forging	—	Iron and Steel industries
	—	The removal and breaking up of fragments	—	Metal and Wood industries
	—	Spraying of abrasive substances	—	Stone carving
	—	Use of brush cutter or chainsaw	—	Gardening
	—	Dental and surgical procedures	—	Healthcare
	—		—	Forestry
Foot and leg (parts)	—	Carcase	—	Building construction
Footwear (shoes/boots, etc.) with safety or protective toecap	—	Work and road work	—	Civil engineering construction
Footwear with metatarsal protection	—	Erection and stripping of formwork	—	Machinery manufacturing, installation and maintenance
	—	Scaffolding's assembly and installation	—	Shipbuilding
	—	Demolitions	—	Mining works
	—	Blasting works	—	Energy production
	—	Working and processing of rock	—	Infrastructure construction and maintenance
	—	Slaughtering and Cutting line works	—	Iron and Steel industry
	—	Transport and storage	—	Slaughterhouses

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	—	Work with moulds in the ceramics industry	—	Logistic Companies
			—	Manufacturing Industry
	—	Work with frozen meat blocks and preserved foods	—	Glass Industry
			—	Forest Industry
		packaging		
	—	Flat glass products and container glassware manufacture, working and processing		
		Conversion and maintenance work		
	—	Forest works		
	—	Work with concrete and prefabricated parts involving formwork erection and stripping		
		Work in contractors' yards and warehouses		
	—	Roof work		
	—	Work on steel bridges, steel building construction, masts, towers, lifts, steel hydraulic structures, blast furnaces, steelworks and rolling		

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		—	mills, large containers, large pipelines, cranes, boiler plants and power stations Furnace construction, heating and ventilation installation and metal assembly work — Work with blast furnaces, direct reduction plants, steelworks, rolling mills, metal works, forging, drop forging, hot pressing and drawing plants — Work in quarries and open diggings, coal stock removal — Work with moulds in the ceramics industry — Lining of kilns in the ceramics industry — Railway shunting work	
Falls due to slipping	Foot Slip-resistant footwear	—	Works on slippery surfaces	— Building construction

		—	Works on humidity environments	—	Civil engineering construction Shipbuilding Slaughterhouse Cleaning Food industries Gardening Fishing industry
Falls from a height	Whole body PPE designed to prevent or arrest falls from height	— — — — — — — — — — — — —	Work on scaffolding Assembly of prefabricated parts Works on masts Roof work Work on vertical or slope surfaces Work in high crane cabs Work in high cabs of warehouse stacking and retrieval equipment Work in high sections of drilling towers Work in shafts and sewers	— — — —	Building construction Civil engineering construction Shipbuilding Infrastructure maintenance
Vibration	Hands Protective Gloves	—	Works with hand-guided tools	— — —	Manufacturing industries Building work Civil Engineering work
Static compression of parts of the body	Knee (leg parts) Kneepads	—	Installation of blocks, tiles and	—	Building construction

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			pavers on the floor	—	Civil engineering construction		
	Footwear with toecaps	—	Demolitions	—	Building construction		
		—	Load handling	—	Civil engineering construction		
				—	Transport and storage		
				—	Maintenance		
Mechanical injuries (abrasion, perforation, cuts, bites, wounds or stabs)	Eyes and/or face Spectacles, goggles, face shields	—	Works with hand-guided tools	—	Building construction		
		—	Welding and forging	—	Civil engineering construction		
		—	Grinding and separating work	—	Shipbuilding		
		—	Chiselling	—	Mining works		
		—	Rock working and processing	—	Energy production		
		—	Work on stock removing machines for small chippings	—	Infrastructure maintenance		
		—	Drop forging	—	Iron and Steel industries		
		—	The removal and breaking up of fragments	—	Metal and Wood industries		
		—	Spraying of abrasive substances	—	Stone carving		
		—	Use of brush cutter or chainsaw	—	Gardening		
					—	Forestry	
			Hands Mechanical protective gloves	—	Works with steel framework	—	Building construction
				—	Handling of sharp-edged objects, other than machines	—	Civil engineering construction
				—	Shipbuilding		
				—	Infrastructure maintenance		

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		—	where there is a danger of the gloves being caught	—	Manufacturing industries
		—	Regular cutting using a hand knife for production and slaughtering	—	Food industry
		—	Changing the knives of cutting machines	—	Slaughter
		—	Forest works	—	Forest industry
		—	Gardening work		
	Forearms Arm protection	—	Boning and cutting	—	Food industry
				—	Slaughter
	Trunk/Abdomen/Leg Protective apron, gaiters Penetration resistance trousers (cut-resistant trousers)	—	Regular cutting using a hand knife for production and slaughtering	—	Food industry
		—	Forest works	—	Slaughter
				—	Forest industry
	Foot Penetration resistance footwear	—	Carcase works and road works	—	Building construction
		—	Demolition	—	Civil engineering
		—	Formwork's erection and stripping	—	construction
		—	Forest works	—	Shipbuilding
				—	Mining works
				—	Forest industry
Entanglement and trapping	Whole body Protective clothing for use where there is a risk of entanglement with moving parts	—	Entangle oneself in parts of machines	—	Machine building
				—	Manufacture of heavy-duty machines

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		—	Get caught in parts of machines	—	Engineering
		—	Get caught with garment in parts of machines	—	Construction
		—	Get swept away	—	Agriculture
PHYSICAL — NOISE					
Noise	Ears Hearing protectors	—	Work with metal presses	—	Metal Industry
		—	Work with pneumatic drills	—	Manufacturing Industry
		—	The work of ground staff at airports	—	Building construction
		—	Works with power tools	—	Civil engineering construction
		—	Blasting works	—	Aeronautical industry
		—	Pile-driving work	—	Mining works
		—	Wood and textile working		
PHYSICAL — THERMAL					
Heat and/or fire	Face/Whole head Welding headshields, helmets/caps against heat or fire, protective hoods against heat and/or flame	—	Work in presence of high temperatures, radiating heat or fire	—	Iron and Steel Industry
		—	Work with or in the vicinity of molten substances	—	Metal Industry
		—	Work with welding plastics guns	—	Maintenance services
		—	Work with welding plastics guns	—	Manufacturing Industry
	Trunk/abdomen/legs Protective apron, gaiters	—	Welding and forging	—	Iron and Steel Industry
		—	Casting	—	Metal Industry

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			—	Maintenance services
			—	Manufacturing industry
	Hand Protective gloves against heat and/or flame	—	Welding and forging	—
		—	Work in presence of high temperatures, radiating heat or fire	—
		—	Work with or in the vicinity of molten substances	—
				—
				Iron and Steel Industry
				Metal Industry
				Maintenance services
				Manufacturing industry
	Forearms Sleeves	—	Welding and forging	—
		—	Work with or in the vicinity of molten substances	—
				—
				Iron and Steel Industry
				Metal Industry
				Maintenance services
				Manufacturing industry
	Foot Footwear against heat and/or flame	—	Work with or in the vicinity of molten substances	—
				—
				Iron and Steel Industry
				Metal Industry
				Maintenance services
				Manufacturing industry
	Whole/partial body Protective clothing against heat and/or flame	—	Work in presence of high temperatures, radiating heat or fire	—
				—
				Iron and Steel Industry
				Metal Industry
				Forest Industry
Cold	Hand Protective gloves against cold	—	Work in the open air in extreme cold conditions	—
	Foot Footwear against cold	—	Work in deep-freeze rooms	—
				—
				Building construction
				Civil engineering construction
				Shipbuilding
				Mining works

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		—	Work with cryogenic liquids	—	Food Industry Agriculture and fisheries sector
	Whole/partial body including head Protective clothing against cold	—	Work in the open air in cold weather conditions Work in deep-freeze rooms	—	Building construction Civil engineering construction Shipbuilding Mining works Food Industry Agriculture and fisheries sector Transport and storage
PHYSICAL — ELECTRICAL					
Electric shock (direct or indirect contact)	Whole head Electrically insulating helmets Hands Electrically insulating gloves Foot Electrically insulating footwear Whole body/Hands/ Foot Conductive PPE intended to be worn by skilled persons during live working at a nominal power system voltage up to 800 kV AC and 600 kV DC	—	Live working or close to live parts under electrical tension Work on electrical system	—	Energy production Transmission and distribution of electrical energy Industrial facilities maintenance Building construction Civil engineering construction
Static electricity	Hands Antistatic gloves Foot Antistatic/conductive footwear Whole body Antistatic clothing	—	Handling plastic and rubber Pouring, collecting or loading into a container Work near to highly	—	Manufacturing industry Feed industry Bagging and packing plants Production, storage or

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		—	charged elements such as conveyor belts Handling explosives	—	transport of explosives
PHYSICAL — RADIATION					
Non-ionizing radiation, including sunlight (other than direct observation)	Head Caps and helmets	—	Work in open air	— — —	Fishing and agriculture Building construction Civil engineering construction
	Eyes Protective spectacles, goggles and face shields	— — — — — — —	Work with radiant heat Furnace operations Work with laser Work in open air Welding and gas cutting Glass blowing Germicidal lamps	— — —	Iron and Steel Industries Manufacturing industry Fishing and agriculture
	Whole body (skin) PPE against Natural and artificial UV	— — — —	Work in the open air Electrical welding Germicidal lamps Xenon lamps	— — — — — — — — — — —	Building construction Civil engineering construction Shipbuilding Mining works Energy production Infrastructure maintenance Fishing and agriculture Forest industry Gardening Food industry Plastic industry

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			—	Printing industry	
Ionizing radiation	Eyes Protective spectacles/goggles against ionizing radiation	—	Operating in X-ray facilities	—	Healthcare Veterinary care
	Hands Protective gloves against ionizing radiation	—	Operating in the area of medical radio diagnosis Work with radioactive products	—	Radioactive waste plant Energy production
	Trunk/abdomen/partial body Protective apron against x-rays /Coat/Vest/Skirt against x-rays	—	Operating in X-ray facilities Operating in the area of medical radio diagnosis	—	Healthcare Veterinary care Dental care Urology Surgery Interventional radiology Laboratories
	Head Headwear & Caps PPE for protection against e.g. development of brain tumours	—	Medical X-ray work places and facilities	—	Healthcare Veterinary care Dental care Urology Surgery Interventional radiology
	Partial body PPE for thyroid protection PPE for gonads protection	—	Operating in X-ray facilities Operating in the area of medical radio diagnosis	—	Healthcare Veterinary care
Whole body Protective clothing against ionizing radiation	—	Operating in the area of medical radio diagnosis Work with radioactive products	—	Energy production Radioactive waste plant	

II. CHEMICAL RISKS (including nanomaterial)

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Risks	Body part affected Type of PPE	Examples of activities where the use of the corresponding type of PPE may be necessary (*)	Industry and Sectors
CHEMICAL — AEROSOLS			
Solid (dusts, fumes, smokes, fibres, and nano-material)	Respiratory system Respiratory protective devices against particles	— Demolition — Blasting works — Sanding and Polishing of surfaces — Work in presence of asbestos — Use of materials consisting of/ containing nanoparticles — Welding — Chimney sweeper — Work on the lining of furnaces and ladles where there may be dust — Work in the vicinity of blast furnace taps where there may be heavy metal fumes — Work in the vicinity of the blast furnace charge	— Building construction — Civil engineering construction — Shipbuilding — Mining works — Iron and Steel industries — Metal and Wood industries — Automotive industry — Stone carving — Pharmaceuticals industry — Healthcare services — Preparation of cytostatics
	Hands Chemical Protective gloves and barrier cream as an additional/ accessory protection	— Work in presence of asbestos — Use of materials consisting of/	— Building construction — Civil engineering construction — Shipbuilding

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			containing nanoparticles	—	Industrial facilities maintenance
	Whole body Protective clothing against solid particles	— — — — — —	Demolition Work in presence of asbestos Use of materials consisting of/ containing nanoparticles Chimney sweeper Preparation of plant protection products	— — — — — —	Building construction Civil engineering construction Shipbuilding Industrial facilities maintenance Agriculture
	Eyes Spectacles/goggles and face shields	— —	Woodworking Road work	— — —	Mining industry Metal and wood industry Civil engineering construction
Liquid (mists and fogs)	Respiratory system Respiratory protective devices against particles	— —	Surface treatment (e.g. varnishing/painting, abrasive blasting) Surface cleaning	— — —	Metal Industry Manufacturing Industry Automotive sector
	Hands Chemical protective gloves	— — — —	Surface treatment Surface cleaning Work with liquid sprays Works with acids and caustic solutions, disinfectants and corrosive	— — —	Metal Industry Manufacturing industry Automotive sector

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			cleaning substances		
	Whole body Chemical protective clothing	— —	Surface treatment Surface cleaning	— — —	Metal Industry Manufacturing industry Automotive sector
CHEMICAL — LIQUIDS					
Immersion Splashes, sprays and jets	Hands Chemical protective gloves,	— — — — — —	Work with liquid sprays Works with acids and caustic solutions, disinfectants and corrosive cleaning products Processing of coating materials Tanning Work in hairdressers and beauty salons	— — — —	Textile and clothing industry Cleaning industry Automobile industry Beauty and hairdressing sectors
	Forearms Chemical protective sleeves	—	Works with acids and caustic solutions, disinfectants and corrosive cleaning products	— — —	Cleaning industry Chemical industry Cleaning industry Automobile industry
	Foot Chemical protective boots	— —	Work with liquid sprays Works with acids and caustic solutions, disinfectants and corrosive cleaning products	— — —	Textile and clothing industry Cleaning industry Automobile industry

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	Whole body Chemical protectiveclothing	— —	Work with liquid sprays Works with acids and caustic solutions, disinfectants and corrosive cleaning products	— — — —	Cleaning industry Cleaning industry Automobile industry Agriculture
CHEMICAL — GASES AND VAPOURS					
Gases and vapours	Respiratory system Respiratory protective devices against gases	— — — — — — — — — — —	Surface treatment (e.g. varnishing/ painting, abrasive blasting) Surface cleaning Work in fermentation and distilling rooms Work inside tanks and digesters Work in containers, restricted areas and gas-fired industrial furnaces where there may be gas or insufficient oxygen Chimney sweeper Disinfectants and corrosive cleaning substances Work in the vicinity of gas	— — — — — — — — — — —	Metal Industry Automotive sector Manufacturing industry Cleaning industry Alcoholic drinks production Wastewater treatment plants Waste treatment plant Chemical Industry Petrochemical industry

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		converters and blast furnace gas pipes	
Hands Chemical protective gloves	—	Surface treatment	— Metal Industry
	—	Surface cleaning	— Automotive sector
	—	Work in fermentation and distilling rooms	— Manufacturing industry — Alcoholic drinks production
	—	Work inside tanks and digesters	— Wastewater treatment plants
	—	Work in containers, restricted areas and gas-fired industrial furnaces where there may be gas or insufficient oxygen	— Waste treatment plant — Chemical Industry — Petrochemical industry
Whole body Chemical protective clothing	—	Surface treatment	— Metal Industry
	—	Surface cleaning	— Automotive sector
	—	Work in fermentation and distilling rooms	— Manufacturing industry — Alcoholic drinks production
	—	Work inside tanks and digesters	— Wastewater treatment plants
	—	Work in containers, restricted areas and gas-fired industrial furnaces where there may be gas or	— Waste treatment plant — Chemical Industry — Petrochemical industry

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		insufficient oxygen	
Eyes	—	Spray painting	— Automotive sector
Spectacles, goggles and face shields	—	Woodworking	— Manufacturing industry
	—	Mining operations	— Mine industry
			— Chemical Industry
			— Petrochemical industry

III. BIOLOGICAL AGENTS

Risks	Body part affected Type of PPE	Examples of activities where the use of the corresponding type of PPE may be necessary (*)	Industry and Sectors
BIOLOGICAL AGENTS (contained in) - AEROSOLS			
Solids and liquids	Respiratory system Respiratory protective devices against particles	— Work that involve contact with human body and animal fluids and tissues — Work in presence of biological agent	— Healthcare — Veterinary clinics — Clinical analysis laboratories — Research Laboratories — Retirement homes — Homes assistances — Wastewater treatment plants — Waste treatment plant — Food Industry — Biochemical production
	Hands Protective gloves against microorganisms Whole/partial body	— Work that involve contact with human body and animal	— Healthcare — Veterinary clinics — Clinical analysis laboratories

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	Protective clothing against biological agents Eyes and/or face Protective spectacles, goggles and face shields	—	fluids and tissues Work in presence of biological agent	— — — — — —	Research Laboratories Retirement homes Homes assistances Wastewater treatment plants Waste treatment plant Food Industry
BIOLOGICAL AGENTS (contained in) - LIQUIDS					
Direct and indirect contact	Hands Protective gloves against microorganisms Whole/partial body Protective clothing against biological agents Eyes and/or face Protective goggles and face shields	— —	Work that involve contact with human body and animal fluids and tissues (bites, stings) Work in presence of biological agent	— — — — — — — — — — — —	Healthcare Veterinary clinics Clinical analysis laboratories Research Laboratories Retirement homes Homes assistances Wastewater treatment plants Waste treatment plant Food Industry Forest industry
Splashes, sprays and jets	Hands Protective gloves against microorganisms	— —	Work that involve contact with human body and animal fluids and tissues Work in presence of biological agent	— — — — — — — —	Healthcare Veterinary clinics Clinical analysis laboratories Research Laboratories Retirement homes Homes assistances Wastewater treatment plants

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		—	Waste treatment plant
		—	Food Industry
Forearms Protective sleeves against microorganisms	—	Work that involve contact with human body and animal fluids and tissues	— Healthcare — Veterinary clinics — Clinical analysis laboratories — Research Laboratories
	—	Work in presence of biological agent	— Retirement homes — Homes assistances — Wastewater treatment plants — Waste treatment plant — Food Industry
Foot/legs Protective over boots and gaiters	—	Work that involve contact with human body and animal fluids and tissues	— Healthcare — Veterinary clinics — Clinical analysis laboratories — Research Laboratories
	—	Work in presence of biological agent	— Retirement homes — Homes assistances — Wastewater treatment plants — Waste treatment plant — Food Industry
Whole body Protective clothing against biological agents	—	Work that involve contact with human body and animal	— Healthcare — Veterinary clinics — Clinical analysis laboratories

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		—	fluids and tissues Work in presence of biological agent	— — — — — —	Research Laboratories Retirement homes Homes assistances Wastewater treatment plants Waste treatment plant Food Industry
BIOLOGICAL AGENTS (contained in) – MATERIALS, PERSONS, ANIMALS, ETC.					
Direct and indirect contact	Hands Protective gloves against microorganisms Whole/partial body Protective clothing against biological agents Eyes and/or face Protective goggles and face shields	— —	Work that involve contact with human body and animal fluids and tissues (bites, stings) Work in presence of biological agent	— — — — — — — — — —	Healthcare Veterinary clinics Clinical analysis laboratories Research Laboratories Retirement homes Homes assistances Wastewater treatment plants Waste treatment plant Food Industry Forest industry

IV. OTHER RISKS

Risks	Body part affected Type of PPE	Examples of activities where the use of the corresponding type of PPE may be necessary (*)	Industry and Sectors
Non-visibility	Whole body PPE for signalling the user's presence visually	— Work in proximity of movement of vehicles	— Building construction Civil engineering construction

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		—	Asphalt works and road marking	—	Shipbuilding
		—	Railway works	—	Mining works
		—	Driving means of transport	—	Transport services and passengers transports
		—	Work of ground staff at airport		
Oxygen deficiency	Respiratory system	—	Work in confined spaces	—	Alcoholic drinks production
	Insulating respiratory protectives devices	—	Work in fermentation and distilling rooms	—	Civil engineering construction
		—	Work inside tanks and digesters	—	Chemical Industry
		—	Work in containers, restricted areas and gas-fired industrial furnaces where there may be gas or insufficient oxygen	—	Petrochemical industry
		—	Work in shafts, sewers and other underground areas connected with sewage		
	Respiratory system	—	Underwater works	—	Civil engineering construction
	Diving equipment				
Drowning	Whole body	—	Work on or near water	—	Fishing industry
	Life jacket	—	Work in the sea	—	Aeronautical industry

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		—	Work in an airplane	—	Building construction
				—	Civil engineering construction
				—	Shipbuilding
				—	Docks and harbours]

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- (1) [OJ No C 161, 20.6.1988, p. 1,](#)
[OJ No C 115, 8.5.1989, p. 27](#) and
[OJ No C 287, 15.11.1989, p. 11.](#)
- (2) [OJ No C 12, 16.1.1989, p. 92](#) and
[OJ No C 256, 9.10.1989, p. 61.](#)
- (3) [OJ No C 318, 12.12.1988, p. 30.](#)
- (4) [OJ No C 28, 3.2.1988, p. 3.](#)
- (5) [OJ No C 28, 3.2.1988, p. 1.](#)
- (6) [OJ No L 183, 29.6.1989, p. 1.](#)
- (7) [OJ No L 185, 9.7.1974, p. 15.](#)
- (8) See the Commission communication ([OJ No C 328, 30.12.1989, p. 3.](#)).
- (9) [^{F2}[OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1.](#)]
- (10) [^{F4}In certain circumstances, as a result of the risk assessment, barrier creams could be used together with other PPE with the aim of protecting workers' skin from related risks. Barrier creams are PPE under the scope of Directive 89/656/EEC as this type of equipment can be considered in certain circumstances as 'additional or accessory' within the meaning of Article 2 of Directive 89/656/EEC. However, barrier creams are not PPE according to the definition in Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/425.]

Textual Amendments

- F2** Inserted by [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1243 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019](#) adapting a number of legal acts providing for the use of the regulatory procedure with scrutiny to Articles 290 and 291 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Text with EEA relevance).
- F4** Substituted by [Commission Directive 2019/1832 of 24 October 2019](#) amending Annexes I, II and III to Council Directive 89/656/EEC as regards purely technical adjustments.