

Memo

To Safety Co-ordinators (for onward transmission to Heads of School, School Safety Advisors)

From Dr Melanie Taylor, University Safety Advisor

Date 9th November 2005

Distribution Dr S A Robson

Reference Circular 18/2005

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for students

The University Safety Co-ordinators have drawn my attention to marked variations in practice in the provision of PPE for students. I am aware that there are many different circumstances in which PPE is provided, or where students are asked to provide items themselves.

The Safety Team has designed the attached survey sheet in order to obtain basic information from schools about current provision and arrangements, so that we can advise further on compliance with legal requirements and with the University's own health & safety policy statement. Please note that your school safety advisors are being asked to collect data for your school and send it to the Safety Office*, preferably by 9 December 2005. (If this timescale presents difficulties, please let us know.) No further action is required at this stage, but if the returns identify particular issues, I will address these in more detail at a later date.

For the purposes of this survey, "personal protective equipment" should be interpreted in a wide sense; it includes obvious items such as laboratory coats, protective gloves, eye protection, etc but also includes high visibility vests or clothing (eg for surveying on roads), respiratory protection (eg for work with isocyanates, or other sensitisers), hard hats (for visits to construction sites or archaeological digs), outdoor clothing and footwear (eg for fieldtrips to remote rural settings).

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University Safety Advisor

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Personal Protective Equipment Questionnaire

Introduction

In order for the University to comply with legal requirements, Schools must provide suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to employees exposed to health and safety risks. The necessity for the use of PPE as a control measure should normally be highlighted by the risk assessment for the activity in question (and is of course a last resort to be used only when other steps do not control the risk adequately).

The purpose of this questionnaire is to enable the Safety Office to get a better understanding of the current arrangements Schools have in place with regards to the provision of PPE for *undergraduate and postgraduate students*.

Your co-operation in completing the attached form would be much appreciated. The examples below are fictitious and do not necessarily reflect any current arrangements.

Ref No	Activity which requires students to wear PPE	UG or PG?	Type of PPE (e.g. eye protection, footwear, overalls, lab coats, hi-visibility garments, head protection, gloves, masks, fall arrest equipment, aprons, life jackets, safety harnesses etc)	Who provides the PPE? School or student? (If cost is split, please provide further details)	Who pays for the PPE? School or student? (If cost is split, please provide further details)
e.g . 1	Course name, bio lab work	UG	Lab coats Safety spectacles	School School	Student School
e.g . 2	Course name, field trip to the Lake District	UG PG	Outdoor waterproof clothing Stout shoes or boots High visibility jackets Outdoor waterproof clothing Stout shoes or boots High visibility jackets	Student Student School Student Student School	Student Student School Student Student School
e.g . 3	PhD Research project	PG	Lab coat Gloves Eye protection - a) general chemicals, b) lasers	School School a & b School	School School a & b School

