



DRAFT: COVID-19 and Engineering Services: guidance (GN 1)

TITLE	PPE (including RPE) requirements for work in 'specific environments'
PURPOSE	Template indicating PPE requirements when working in 'specific environments' with elevated risk of coronavirus (Covid-19) spread

1. Introduction: work in specific environments

This guidance note **relates to the use of PPE for work in 'specific environments'** (those where there is an elevated risk of spread of coronavirus, as referenced in the CLC Site Operating Procedures (SOP)).

For typical construction and maintenance activity Public Health England does not refer to using RPE as a protective measure against the spread of coronavirus. However, the CLC SOP adds that where personnel work in specific environments (that may present *elevated risk* of spread of coronavirus) such as:

- where persons are shielding
- with symptoms, or
- where confirmed Covid-19 cases may be present

then - in addition to general, effective mitigating actions such as social distancing and thorough hygiene measures - PPE (which may include RPE) should be considered in relation to mitigating the risk of viral spread.

Examples of 'specific environments' may include NHS premises, care home or some domestic settings.



2. Planning and Risk Assessment

- Work in specific environments must be approved by the Operations Director / Project / Contract Manager and Principal Contractor / Client
- Operatives must be fully briefed on viral symptoms and monitor their own health, with daily discussion / support from Supervisors / Line managers
- Any work requiring skin to skin contact is prohibited
- Specify and follow thorough hand washing /hygiene and surface cleaning protocols
- Specify and follow social distancing wherever possible (or see section 9 below.)



DRAFT: COVID-19 and Engineering Services: guidance (GN 1)

TITLE	PPE (including RPE) requirements for work in 'specific environments'
PURPOSE	Template indicating PPE requirements when working in 'specific environments' with elevated risk of coronavirus (Covid-19) spread

3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Based on a suitable and sufficient risk assessment, general PPE may include:

- Construction environments - Hard hat (BS EN 397)
- Facilities and Infrastructure Services and Off-Site Manufacture - Bump Cap (BS EN 812) - some environments, if supported by risk assessment, may upgrade to a hard hat (BS EN 397)
- Hand Protection – Abrasion/Blade, Cut/Tear/Puncture and TDM cut 4X44E to BS EN388
- Prescription safety spectacles or light (low impact hazard) eye protection – BS EN 166, Optical Class 1, mechanical strength - F, resistance to fogging – N, resistance to surface damage – K, or equivalent
- Where face shields are selected, low impact hazard eye protection may be risk assessed out.
- Hi-Visibility Clothing, BS EN 471 Class 2
- Foot Protection – Steel toe footwear, BS EN-345 Type-S3
- Microgard Paper overalls, BS EN ISO 13982-1 Type 5 Airborne particulates

RPE

- FFP3 face masks or higher protection factor RPE (such as air fed respirators)

If FFP3 masks are not available, FFP2 face masks may be used provided:

- the FFP2 protects against any other respiratory hazards identified by a risk assessment; and
- a face fit test for the type of face mask being work has been carried out.

Note: valved face masks may allow a viral *exhalation* risk.

4. Site requirements to wear RPE

Any other applicable policy or site requirement to wear RPE with a view to controlling the risk from coronavirus should be dealt with in discussion with the site owner and/or main contractor.

5. PPE: Operational Control

Personnel must NOT commence work without the correct PPE. Personnel must raise any lack of, or defective PPE to their supervisor before any work is undertaken.

Supervisors should monitor the correct wearing and maintenance of all PPE (including RPE), ensuring, if any sub-standard equipment is identified, the worker is taken to a place of safety and the item removed from use and disposed of. The worker may not return to the work site until issued with suitable replacement PPE.



DRAFT: COVID-19 and Engineering Services: guidance (GN 1)

TITLE	PPE (including RPE) requirements for work in 'specific environments'
PURPOSE	Template indicating PPE requirements when working in 'specific environments' with elevated risk of coronavirus (Covid-19) spread

Employees should take good care of all PPE issued to them, and not modify the equipment or deface it in any way. If equipment is damaged, lost or stolen then personnel must report this immediately to supervision or management to ensure that replacement PPE can be provided.

Re-usable PPE / RPE should be avoided where possible, if not possible it should be thoroughly cleaned as per manufacturer's guidance after use, and not shared between workers.

Single use PPE / RPE should be disposed of safely, and never re-used.

Employees must be reminded regularly that wearing RPE must not lead to unwanted changes in behaviour which undermine social distancing measures and thorough hygiene practice – the two most effective control measures against viral spread.

- The protection afforded by masks and other RPE can deteriorate
- Face masks do not protect the eyes
- 'Doffing' RPE, and (single use) waste disposal must be done according to protocol, to reduce the risk of viral contamination and spread.

6. Waste PPE

A person should be designated to ensure compliance with the PHE guidelines on the disposal of any waste PPE/RPE (including disposable cloths and tissues).

1. PPE waste should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full.
2. The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied.
3. It should be put in a suitable and secure place and marked for safe storage.

Waste should be stored safely for at least 72 hours, after which it can be disposed of as general waste (or suitably disposed of as *clinical waste*).

7. Awareness, training and Competence

All personnel must be:

- briefed on the requirements of this guidance, and a record of the briefing kept on site.
- trained in the correct use of selected RPE.

8. Performance Monitoring

Managers and supervisors must ensure that PPE is worn in the appropriate manner and for the correct application.

Provision and use of PPE should be monitored by a nominated supervisor or manager, and during site visits/inspections.



DRAFT: COVID-19 and Engineering Services: guidance (GN 1)

TITLE	PPE (including RPE) requirements for work in ‘specific environments’
PURPOSE	Template indicating PPE requirements when working in ‘specific environments’ with elevated risk of coronavirus (Covid-19) spread

9. Close proximity working

Guidance from Public Health England (PHE) for construction activity states “*where it is not possible to follow the (2 metre) social distancing guidelines in full in relation to a particular activity, you should consider whether that activity needs to continue for the site to continue to operate and, if so, take all the mitigating actions possible to reduce the risk of transmission*”. In ‘special environments’ this may include RPE, noting RPE is the last resort. Please see ECA/BESA GN2 for further guidance on working closer than 2 metres from others.

10. Legislation and guidance (further reference)

The Personal Protection Equipment at Work Regulations (1992) as amended.

*Construction Leadership Council (CLC) Site Operating Procedures (SOP) – Protecting your workforce (latest version on the CLC website at: www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/)

BSiF Fit2Fit Accredited face fit testers: www.fit2fit.org/

Important note:

This guidance note has been drawn up by **the BESA and ECA** to help contractors working in the engineering services sector to meet the requirements of the CLC SOP in ‘specific environments’ (CLC SOP).

This information provides guidance only – it must be adapted as necessary to fit the prevailing site and other circumstances and based on a suitable and sufficient risk assessment. The BESA and ECA provide further supporting information for Members on conducting suitable and sufficient risk assessments.

We would like to acknowledge the support of **NG Bailey** in the production of this guidance, and the input of practitioner ECA and BESA members.

Comments on this guidance are welcome, and should be directed to either:
Paul.Reeve@eca.co.uk or Rebecca.Crosland@theBESA.com

Essential sources of official information and advice:

www.gov.uk/guidance/social-distancing-in-the-workplace-during-coronavirus-covid-19-sector-guidance#construction

www.gov.uk/guidance/social-distancing-in-the-workplace-during-coronavirus-covid-19-sector-guidance#transport-businesses

CLC Site operating Procedures at: www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Site-Operating-Procedures-Version-3.pdf

Your document Ref	Issue Date	Version	Expiry Date	Author	Owner
	April 2020	v0.1			