GENERAL SAFETY INSTRUCTION GSI-SH-5

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Legal basis
In accordance with its intergovernmental status, the Organization establishes and updates Safety Rules to implement its Safety Policy.

This General Safety Instruction forms part of the CERN Safety Rules and is issued pursuant to the Staff Rules and Regulations and the CERN Safety Policy.

1.2 Purpose and scope
The purpose of this General Safety Instruction is to define the minimum requirements regarding the selection, provision, use and maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at CERN.

1.3 Definitions
For the purpose of this General Safety Instruction, the following definitions shall apply:

- **Applicable Laws**: all laws, treaties, rules, regulations and orders of any local, national or other authority having jurisdiction over a contractor or a Home institution.
- **CERN Experiment**: comprises both Large Experiments and Experiments.¹
- **Home Institution**: Institution to which an associated Member of the Personnel is linked as defined by the CERN Staff Rules and Regulations.
- **HSE Unit**: Organic unit competent in matters of occupational health and safety, radiation protection, fire and rescue preparedness and responses and environmental protection.
- **Laws**: laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, prescriptions or directives, issued by a national or international authority other than CERN and standards and procedures issued by a professional association or standardisation body if referred to in a CERN Safety Rule.
- **Members of the Personnel**: CERN Members of the Personnel as defined by the CERN Staff Rules and Regulations. Members of the Personnel comprise both employed and associated Members of the Personnel.
- **Organic unit**: CERN Department or administratively assimilated unit or CERN Experiments.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**: equipment designed to be worn or held by a person for protection against one or more risks to that person’s health or safety, such as helmets, safety shoes or respiratory protective equipment. Measurement devices such as dosimeters or oxygen deficiency detectors are not considered to be PPE.
- **Supervisor**: hierarchical superior appointed by CERN or person appointed by the Home Institution or the contractor as being responsible for health and safety at work of his/her report.

Where CERN agrees to provide PPE on behalf of a Home Institution or a contractor, the Supervisor is the employed member of the personnel appointed by CERN as being responsible for the provision of such PPE to the associated Member of the Personnel or the member of the contractor’s personnel concerned.

¹ For further definitions, see SR-SO - Responsibilities and organisational structure in matters of Safety
1.4 Supplementary provisions

This General Safety Instruction is supplemented by the documents listed below, where they exist:

- Safety Regulations (SR);
- General Safety Instructions (GSI);
- Specific Safety Instructions (SSI),

and by the relevant provisions of the following law:


In the event of any ambiguity or contradiction between the above-mentioned documents, they shall apply in decreasing order of priority, starting from the top.

2 GENERAL PRINCIPLES / CONTEXT

2.1 General prevention and protection principles

Except in matters of radiation protection, which fall under the exclusive responsibility of the Radiation Protection group of the HSE Unit\(^2\), each Organic Unit shall carry out risk assessments for the activities under its responsibility.

Where the nature of the activity does not permit the risk to be eliminated, the Organic Unit concerned shall ensure that risks to the health and safety of persons arising, or likely to arise, from the activity concerned are reduced to a minimum by application, as appropriate, of the following prevention and protection measures, listed in order of priority:

- substitution of the risk-inducing element for an element inducing no risk or a lesser risk,
- design of appropriate work processes and engineering controls,
- appropriate organisational measures,
- application of collective protection measures,
- provision of suitable personal protection measures, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

2.2 Obligation to provide PPE

Suitable PPE shall be provided wherever the risk assessment concludes that it is required for a given activity, or where the provision of PPE is required by a CERN Safety Rule, the HSE Unit, Laws or Applicable Laws, as the case may be.

Where appropriate, CERN shall communicate the results of the risk assessment and/or the requirement for PPE to the Home Institution or contractor concerned.

\(^2\) cf: SR-SO - Responsibilities and organisational structure in matters of Safety
2.3 Responsibility for the provision of PPE

The provision of PPE to employed Members of the Personnel, to Associates for the purpose of training (MPAt)\(^3\) and to temporary workers is the responsibility of CERN. Unless otherwise agreed, the provision of PPE to associated Members of the Personnel (other than MPAts) is the responsibility of the Home Institution. Unless otherwise agreed, the provision of PPE to contractors’ personnel (other than temporary workers) is the responsibility of the contractor.

Where CERN agrees to provide PPE to associated Members of the Personnel or contractors’ personnel, such provision shall be made on behalf of the Home Institution or the contractor and shall be without prejudice to the Home Institution’s or contractor’s obligations in matters of occupational health and safety as the employer. Unless stipulated otherwise by a CERN Safety Rule, the provision of PPE is the responsibility of the Organic Unit responsible for the visit\(^4\) for visitors and the Supervisor in all other cases.

3 CHOICE OF PPE

3.1 General requirements for PPE

Unless otherwise agreed by the HSE Unit or stipulated by a CERN Safety Rule, PPE used by Members of the Personnel or temporary workers shall carry CE marking.

PPE used by contractors’ personnel shall comply with the Applicable Laws.

PPE shall further meet the following requirements:

- it shall be tailored to the risks to be prevented,
- it shall be adapted to its user and compatible with the activity to be performed,
- it shall not cause significant additional discomfort in carrying out the activity concerned, or cause additional risks.

3.2 Selection of PPE

Unless the type of PPE to be used is prescribed by a CERN Safety Rule, by the HSE Unit, by Laws or Applicable Laws, it shall be selected by the Supervisor in consultation with the user of the PPE, taking into account the following:

- the severity of the risk,
- the frequency of exposure,
- the specificities of the work station or activity,
- the effectiveness of the PPE,
- ergonomics.

The user of the PPE may request a trial period to confirm the suitability of the PPE. If the PPE is found to be unsuitable, alternative PPE shall be selected.

The PPE used by visitors shall be selected by the Organic Unit responsible for the visit, in collaboration with the Organic Unit(s) responsible for the location(s) visited.

The HSE Unit may provide guidance as to the selection of suitable PPE.

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\(^3\) MPAts include doctoral-, technical and administrative students and trainees

\(^4\) cf. GSI-SH-1 - Visits on the CERN Site
4 USE OF PPE
The Supervisor or the Organic Unit responsible for the visit, as the case may be, shall ensure that PPE under its responsibility:

- is in proper condition, including in terms of hygiene, and
- is provided with the instructions and/or training needed for its proper use.

The instructions for use shall comprise:

- information regarding the risks against which the PPE provides protection,
- the conditions and scope of use,
- instructions as to the maintenance and inspection of the PPE, if applicable.

Where appropriate, the instructions for use shall be complemented by practical training, repeated as often as necessary.

The user of the PPE shall:

- use it properly and in accordance with the instructions provided,
- check it for damage both before and after use,
- immediately discard defective PPE or PPE that has reached the end of its defined period of use,
- maintain reusable PPE properly, in accordance with the instructions provided to this effect.

5 MAINTENANCE, INSPECTION AND DISCARDING OF PPE
The Supervisor or the Organic Unit responsible for the visit, as the case may be, shall ensure that the PPE under its responsibility is maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and that it performs properly at all times.

They shall ensure that its performance is regularly checked, in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions, the CERN Safety Rules, Laws or Applicable Laws, where they exist. Where no specific instructions or rules exist as to the inspection of the PPE, the Supervisor or the Organic Unit responsible for the visit shall define the frequency and/or the nature of such an inspection, taking into account the specific conditions of use of the PPE concerned.

PPE inspections must be carried out by a competent person.

Where the proper performance of the PPE can no longer be guaranteed or where the PPE has reached the end of its defined period of use, it shall be immediately discarded.

6 FINAL PROVISIONS

6.1 Replacement of existing documents
This General Safety Instruction (version 1.0) cancels and replaces Safety Instruction IS7 “Individual Protection”.

6.2 Entry into force
This General Safety Instruction (version 1.0) enters into force upon its publication on the CERN website dedicated to the CERN Safety Rules: https://www.cern.ch/safety-rules.