

Q&A on the new personal protective equipment (PPE)

Why is Amsterdam Airport Schiphol taking this step?

Your safety is our concern. Injuries to hands, eyes and ankles still happen all too frequently, so through these tightened regulations on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), we intend to further reduce the number of safety incidents and accidents at Schiphol.

Where must PPE be worn?

PPE must be worn by all persons who are carrying out construction or maintenance work and/or entering technical sections or areas. This means that even visitors are required to wear all forms of PPE.

Does this directive apply to all employees, both internal and external?

The PPE directive applies to everyone. We strive to ensure a safe environment for everyone.

How will we deal with guests who are having a look around/in the work areas?

The same PPE rules that apply to employees also apply to visitors and guests to construction and maintenance work sites or technical areas. Visitors must be escorted by an employee from the project in question when entering a work area. The person who escorts the visitor (you) will provide instructions on the PPE that must be worn and the conditions at the work site.

How will we handle tours of/visitors to the technical area?

It is important that visitors also wear the mandatory PPE during tours of or visits to the construction and maintenance work sites or technical areas. Visitors may enter these areas only when escorted by an employee. Anyone entering the technical sections in Baggage must wear a bump cap. For more on this, refer to the Golden Rule.

Do you have to wear all types of PPE if you yourself are not doing any work?

Wearing all personal protective equipment is mandatory, even when you are not carrying out work or conducting inspections.

Can I request an exemption from wearing PPE because the PPE make my work more difficult or hazardous?

If wearing PPE creates a hazard while performing certain actions in the course of your work, you should report this to your supervisor. You will need to supply a TRA (Task Risk Analysis) to support this statement in order to submit a request for exemption. This request will be evaluated, first by your supervisor and then by the Health, Safety & Environment (HSE) Office at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. Requests for exemptions that give reasons such as 'the PPE are uncomfortable to wear' or 'I do not carry out any work myself' will not be granted. By requiring that PPE be worn in all areas that are considered to be construction and/or maintenance work sites or technical areas, we want to ensure that you will be safe during your time in those environments.

Once we have carried out an operational commissioning, the site fences (hoardings) typically remain in place while (for example) the shop is being furnished. Are we still required to wear PPE at that time?

Yes, wearing proper personal protective equipment is mandatory during all construction and/or maintenance work.

Is it possible to lift the directive on wearing safety helmets once all ceiling-related work at a site has been completed?

Safety helmets remain mandatory, even when work on the ceiling has concluded. If you have left the specific work site but are still within the cordon of the work area, you will still need to wear your helmet as well.

Who is responsible for the costs of purchasing the PPE?

The Working Conditions Act requires your employer to provide you with personal protective equipment in keeping with the nature of your work.

I purchased my own PPE, but these no longer meet the requirements of the new rule. Now what?

Wearing the proper PPE is mandatory for your own safety. Unfortunately, if your PPE are no longer appropriate, you will need to replace them. You can turn to your employer with any questions you may have about the costs of purchasing PPE. If you are an independent contractor, the best thing to do is contact your client.

Is hearing protection considered part of the standard PPE?

Hearing protection is not part of the standard PPE. Whether or not hearing protection is required will depend on the specific work site or conditions. You will receive instructions about this from your client, the project supervisor at the work site or your supervisor.

Isn't this PPE directive a bit much?

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol has taken a conscious decision to observe a high safety standard and PPE are a vital part of these efforts. Through this directive, Schiphol is creating a safe environment, both in general and for work.

How long is the transitional period?

The transitional period will be in effect from 18 February until 1 April. Once you have access to the proper PPE, you should begin wearing them. From 18 February, you will be given a verbal warning if you are not in compliance. From 1 April, you will be sanctioned for failing to wear the proper PPE.

How can I comply in such a short period of time?

Order the new PPE as soon as possible. It is vital that each and every one of us work safely.

What is a TRA?

TRA stands for Task Risk Analysis. In order to identify potential risks and establish measures to manage these risks, you must first set out the exact nature of the work environment and the work itself. To determine which PPE are needed, you will use this tool to decide whether the standard PPE package is sufficient or additional equipment is in order. The TRA is compiled by a H&S/KAM coordinator for the work in question.

Who is my point of contact if I have questions?

The person who issues your instructions and supervises you as you carry out the work is your first point of contact.

I want to order new PPE; where can I do this?

You should talk to your own employer about ordering PPE.

I will be entering a construction or maintenance work site; where can I get the proper PPE?

You will receive instructions concerning the PPE that must be worn at your location from your employer, client or supervisor at the site. They will also tell you where you can obtain these PPE.

I wear orthotic inserts in my shoes, and I've heard that these inserts may not be worn in safety shoes because they affect the protective aspect. How do I order custom safety shoes that fit my feet?

For those who typically wear orthotic inserts, we recommend that you order custom safety shoes in consultation with your employer.

I wear glasses; can I get special safety glasses?

Safety goggles that fit over other eyewear are available. Please consult your employer about this.

I will only be conducting an inspection / I am only there to document the work or to issue a permit. Do I still need to wear gloves?

In all cases, you must wear your PPE. Where the gloves are concerned: suitable gloves exist for any type of task, including ones that allow you to write. Talk to your employer about this.

Does this constitute a change in my employment contract?

The adjustment of the PPE regulations is not a contract change. Rather, it is an adjustment of the Amsterdam Airport Schiphol rules.