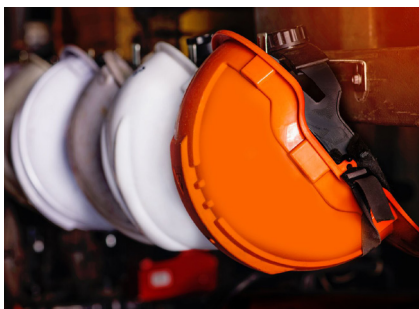


Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Putting safety first



Safety first – that is the overriding aim of personal protective equipment (PPE) and the legislation that regulates it. From sunglasses and sports goggles, through oven gloves and hi-vis clothing, to safety shoes and chainsaw trousers, PPE products are designed to protect users undertaking a range of activities, from the mundane to the extreme.

WHAT IS PPE?

PPE is any product designed to be worn or held by an individual for protection against one or more safety hazards. The range of PPE products is immense and includes products for:

- Recreational use
- Professional use

EUROPEAN REGULATIONS

Products are regulated in the EU under PPE Regulation 2016/425. This applies to most safety products intended for use in domestic, leisure and sports activities, as well as for professional use.

Following Brexit, the UK requires compliance with Regulation 2016/425 as brought into GB law and amended.

All PPE products covered under 2016/425 must meet the essential health and safety requirements (EHSR) listed and described in Annex II of the PPE Regulation.

Manufacturers seeking to place products onto European markets need to be aware of these legislative requirements and plan their product certification activities accordingly.

SGS is an accredited Notified Body (EU) and Approved Body (UK) to Regulation 2016/425. We offer global certification assessments and testing solutions through our unique global network of auditors and testing facilities.

CERTIFICATION UNDER REGULATION 2016/425

PPE products are classified into three categories – I, II and III – each requiring the manufacturer to produce an EU Declaration of Conformity (DoC).

PPE CATEGORY	EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS	REQUIREMENTS
CATEGORY I Products protecting against 'minimal risks'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple gardening gloves • Sunglasses • Rain garments 	SELF-CERTIFICATION Manufacturers can self-certify, a process which requires the development of a Technical File that includes the manufacturer's DoC
CATEGORY II Products that are neither Category I or III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and sports helmets • Safety footwear • High visibility clothing 	EU/UKCA TYPE EXAMINATION (MODULE B) Manufacturers require an EU/UKCA type examination certificate issued by a Notified Body (EU) or Approved Body (UK). This can be done by developing a Technical File that includes independent testing reports/results
CATEGORY III Products protecting against "risks that may cause very serious consequences such as death or irreversible damage to health"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory equipment • Fall arrest equipment • Chemical protective clothing 	EU TYPE EXAMINATION + SURVEILLANCE Manufacturers require an EU/UKCA type examination certificate and ongoing assessment of compliance. For the latter, clients can choose to have their Notified/Approved Body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit the manufacturing site annually to ensure that quality management systems are in place to manufacture a compliant product on an ongoing basis, or • Select samples annually for compliance testing



TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION UNDER REGULATION 2016/425

Must include all data relevant to the means used by the manufacturer to demonstrate compliance with the EHSR relevant to the PPE product type.

EU/UKCA type examination requires a Notified/Approved Body to review the technical documentation against the essential health and safety requirements, which are normally achieved by ensuring compliance with the appropriate harmonized standard.

NOTIFIED BODY STATUS

Our facilities in Finland (Notified Body 0598) and the UK (Approved Body 0120) provide type-approval examination to PPE Regulation 2016/425.

We offer a one-stop-shop solution and can conduct CE and UKCA certification simultaneously.

In addition, we provide Category III PPE certification services through our worldwide network of auditors.

ABOUT SGS

We are SGS – the world’s leading testing, inspection and certification company. We are recognized as the global benchmark for sustainability, quality and integrity.

PPE PRODUCTS WHICH SGS IS APPROVED TO CERTIFY

EQUIPMENT PROVIDING:

- Chest and groin protection
- Eye and face protection
- Foot and leg and anti-slip protection
- General body protection (clothing)
- General body protection (clothing) against chemical agents
- General body protection (clothing) against cold [cold > -50°C]
- General body protection (clothing) against cold [extreme cold < -50°C]
- General body protection (clothing) against electrical risks
- General body protection (clothing) against heat [heat > 100°C and fire and flame]
- Hand and arm protection
- Head protection
- Hearing protection
- Respiratory system protection

SPECIALIZED AREAS:

- Diving suits
- Fireman suits

- High visibility clothing, visibility accessories
- Motorcycle riders

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AGAINST:

- Biological agents
- Chemical agents
- Cold [cold > - 50°C]
- Cold [extreme cold < -50°C]
- Drowning and buoyancy aids
- Electrical risks
- Falls from height
- Hand-held chain-saws
- Heat [heat > 100°C and fire & flame]
- Ionizing radiation
- Mechanical risks
- Non-ionizing radiation including optical radiation and electromagnetic fields
- Risks arising from sports activity
- Vibrations
- Slipping

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