Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to establish the minimum requirements for the selection, use, inspection, maintenance, and replacement of protective footwear at Algonquin College. This standard shall be read in conjunction with the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Program **PPE-01**.

Requirements

General

- Workers shall wear CSA-certified protective footwear whenever a hazard assessment identifies a risk of foot or lower leg injury
- Protective footwear shall be appropriate for the hazards associated with the work being performed
- Protective footwear shall be worn for the entire duration of the task or while the hazard exists

Selection

- Protective footwear shall comply with the current edition of *CSA Z195 – Protective Footwear*
- Supervisors shall ensure workers are provided with or wear footwear appropriate to the identified hazards
- Selection shall consider where applicable:
    - Impact hazards
    - Puncture hazards
    - Compression hazards
    - Electrical hazards
    - Slip hazards
    - Chemical exposure
    - Wet work environment
    - Temperature extremes

Classification

Protective footwear shall be selected based on the hazards identified in the hazard assessment.



- **CSA Grade 1 (green triangle):** Toe protection with puncture-resistant soles



- **CSA Grade 1 (blue rectangle):** Toe protection without puncture-resistant soles



- **Electrical Shock Resistant (white rectangle + orange omega):** designed to provide protection from accidental contact with energized electrical circuits.
- Additional protective features (e.g., chemical-resistant, slip-resistant, dielectric, metatarsal protection) shall be selected where required by the work being performed.

Use, Inspection, and Care

- Protective footwear shall be inspected before each use
- Footwear shall be maintained in clean and serviceable condition
- Damaged, excessively worn, or defective footwear shall be removed from service immediately
- Laces, soles, toe caps, puncture-resistant plates, and other protective components shall be maintained in good condition
- Footwear shall be replaced when it no longer provides the level of protection required

Special Requirements

- Rubber or waterproof protective footwear shall be worn where workers are exposed to wet environments or where required by the hazard assessment
- Chemical-resistant footwear shall be worn where there is a risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals
- Additional lower leg protection shall be provided where identified by the hazard assessment

References

- Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Regulation 851 – Industrial Establishments
- CSA Z195 – Protective Footwear
- AC PPE Program PPE-01

Related Documents

- AC PPE Program PPE-01
- Hazard Assessment Procedure
- Electrical Safety Program (where applicable)
- Incident Reporting Procedure