Purpose

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

Requirements

General

- Workers shall wear appropriate hand and skin protection whenever a hazard assessment identifies a risk of injury or exposure.
- Hand and skin protection shall be selected based on the hazards associated with the work being performed.
- Hand and skin protection shall be worn for the entire duration of the task or while the hazard exists.

Selection

Appropriate hand and skin protection shall be selected based on the identified hazards, including but not limited to:

- Chemical exposure
- Biological hazards
- Cuts and punctures
- Abrasion
- Heat and thermal burns
- Cold temperatures
- Electrical hazards (where applicable)
- Contact with sharp or rough materials

Selection shall consider manufacturer recommendations, Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), and applicable CSA or industry standards where available.

Types of Protection

The type of hand and skin protection shall be appropriate for the identified hazards and may include:

- Chemical-resistant gloves
- Cut-resistant gloves
- Heat-resistant gloves
- Cold-protective gloves
- Disposable gloves
- Leather work gloves
- Protective sleeves
- Other task-specific hand and harm protection

Where chemical-resistant gloves are required, the glove material shall be compatible with the chemical being handled.

Note: Protective body garments, including laboratory coats, coveralls, protective suits, and aprons, are addressed in OHS Standard WP-17 – Personal Protective Equipment: Body Garments, High-Visibility and Leg Protection.

Use, Inspection, and Care

- Hand and skin protection shall be inspected before each use.
- Damaged, torn, punctured, contaminated, or deteriorated PPE shall be removed from service immediately.
- Reusable PPE shall be cleaned, maintained, and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Disposable PPE shall not be reused unless specifically designed for multiple uses.

Contamination and Disposal

- PPE contaminated by hazardous chemicals, biological materials, or other hazardous substances shall be decontaminated or disposed of in accordance with applicable procedures and regulatory requirements.
- Supervisors shall ensure appropriate disposal methods are followed for contaminated PPE.
- Workers shall report damaged or contaminated PPE to their supervisor for replacement.

References

- Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Regulation 851 – Industrial Establishments
- PPE Program (PPE-01)
- Applicable Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)

Related Documents

- PPE Program (PPE-01)
- Hazard Assessment Procedure
- WHMIS Program
- Biosafety Procedures (where applicable)
- OHS Standard WP-17 – Body Garments, High-Visibility and Leg Protection
- Incident Reporting Procedure