



## Objective:

Guidance for purchasing, use and selection of PPE at European level. Support for those responsible in companies to minimise risks and easily implement legal requirements.

With this guide, those responsible maintain an overview of the **EU PPE requirements**, can **purchase according to risk** and ensure that employees **effectively protected** are. CE marking and standards serve as guidance – training, correct use and documentation complete the safety concept.

# 1

## Fundamentals: CE marking & PPE Regulation

- ▶ **Legal basis:** EU PPE Regulation (EU) 2016/42
- ▶ **Objective:** Protection against health and safety risks in the workplace
- ▶ **Scope:** All types of PPE – from gloves to helmets to respirators

**Important:** CE marking is **not a quality seal**, but rather the proof that the PPE **basic safety requirements of the EU** fulfilled.

# 2

## PPE categories

Category Risk	Examples	Testing requirements
I Simple risk, products to be checked by the user	Gloves against light mechanical stress	Manufacturer's declaration
II Medium risk, e.g. protection against cuts, falls, noise	Safety goggles, safety shoes	EC type-examination (internal)
III Life-threatening risks or permanent damage	Respirators, chemical protective suits	External Notified Body tests every batch

**Practical Tip:** When purchasing, check the category and the **intended use** of the PPE. Only Category III products are subject to stringent testing.

# 3

## CE marking vs. certification

- ▶ **CE marking:** Mandatory for sale within the EU. Signals that the product meets EU requirements.
- ▶ **Certification / test marks:** Often additionally voluntary (e.g. EN standards, GS mark), shows independent Tests.
- ▶ **Check:** CE ≠ certificate – CE = legal minimum standard, standards certificates = additional safety.

# 4

## Guide: Selecting PPE correctly

### 4.1. Conduct risk analysis

- ▶ What hazards exist in the workplace?
- ▶ Which body parts are particularly at risk?

### 4.2. Determine category

- ▶ Record risk level ▶ select appropriate category (I, II, III)

### 4.3. Check CE marking

- ▶ CE mark visible on product or packaging
- ▶ EC Declaration of Conformity present

### 4.4. Compare standards & test seals

- ▶ Observe EN standards (e.g. EN 166 for safety goggles)
- ▶ Additional test marks as quality indicator

### 4.5. Check supplier & documentation

- ▶ Only purchase PPE from reliable manufacturers
- ▶ Archive technical documents, test documents and instructions for use

### 4.6. Instruction & training

- ▶ Instruct employees in correct use
- ▶ Document use and storage

# 5

## Checklist for purchasing PPE

Inspection points	Status / Notes
CE marking present	Yes / No
EC Declaration of Conformity available	Yes / No
Category suitable for risk	I, II or III
Standards / EN test marks verified	Yes / No
Supplier reliable & documented	Yes / No
Employee training scheduled	Ja / Nein



### Practical tips for better orientation when purchasing products

- ▶ PSA **always select according to work area**, not based on visual impression.
- ▶ Check whether **Supplier technical documentation** provides – facilitates internal audits
- ▶ **Storage & labelling** note: CE marking must remain legible
- ▶ For **Category III**: only use products with test report from the Notified Body
- ▶ Regular **Inspection and replacement cycles** document ☑ minimises risk and downtime.