

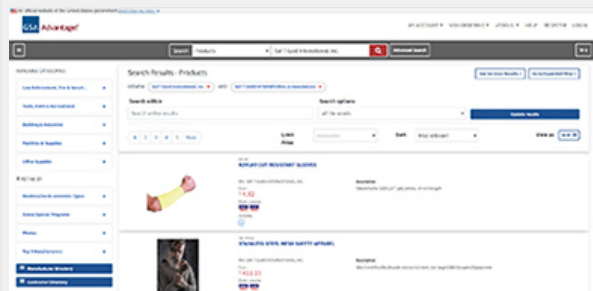


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International, Inc.



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SOLUTIONS**
for more than 85 years

Saf-T-Gard is Awarded U.S. GSA Contract



Saf-T-Gard International, Inc., a full-line, quality-oriented supplier of global industrial safety solutions bringing workers home safely for more than 85 years, is excited to now also service the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), the preferred procurement vehicle for the government, with its newly awarded GSA contract.

Under contract 47QSWA23D009R, Saf-T-Gard is approved to supply gloves, protective clothing and dielectric testing services through the GSA Advantage Web site (www.gsaadvantage.gov), the worldwide shopping network for all federal agencies to purchase from approved GSA Schedule Contracts.

This contract can be used by U.S. Federal government agencies through September 2028. The contract has a low minimum order level with additional discounts for orders more than \$25,000.

Since 1936, Saf-T-Gard has enabled on-the-job safety, compliance and peace of mind for hundreds of thousands of workers and their families by delivering superior safety products and solutions that protect against work-related hazards and prevent serious injuries, and we are thrilled to now be able to extend our pre-approved products and services to government agencies as well.

GO GSA

Head Protection: Safety Helmets in the Workplace

Subscribe to Our Saf-T-Blog

SAF-T-BLOG



Did you know Saf-T-Gard has a blog on our website, which we post new articles to every three weeks?

Authored by subject matter experts, including Richard A. Rivkin, Saf-T-Gard President and Chairman of the Board, and the world's leading safety manufacturers, the blog topics range from hazard identification, regulatory standards, and the latest technologies and innovations in safety to help safety managers, workers and business owners across all industries stay informed, make better decisions and work more efficiently. Whatever safety challenge you face, count on Saf-T-Gard to deliver trusted advice backed by more than 85 years of service.

Click [here](#) to browse and read our current selection of blog articles and click [here](#) to subscribe to our blog on LinkedIn to be automatically notified when new articles are posted.

Do you have a topic that you would like to see explored in a blog article? Please e-mail LSeminara@saf-tgard.com.

**Shop Saf-tgard.com -
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Workplace safety equipment, including head protection, has evolved over the years. As industries strive to enhance worker safety and reduce the risks of head injuries, more advanced and protective modern head protection, safety helmets, are replacing traditional hard hats.

This OSHA **Safety and Health Information Bulletin** (SHIB) presents the key differences between safety helmets and traditional hard hats, describing the advancements in design, materials, and protective features that help to protect the worker's entire head. This SHIB also provides instructions for properly inspecting and storing head protection, whether it be a safety helmet or a traditional hard hat. With a thorough understanding of the benefits and capabilities of head protection options, employers and workers can make informed decisions on which to use.

The significance of head protection in hazardous work environments cannot be overstated. For decades, traditional hard hats have been the go-to choice for protecting workers' heads. Made of rigid materials like high-density polyethylene, traditional hard hats provide a basic level of protection. However, as technology and scientific understanding of head injuries have advanced, safety helmets now provide further improvements to enhance worker safety and reduce the risk of severe head trauma.

One of the differences between traditional hard hats and safety helmets lies in their construction materials. While hard hats are made of hard plastics, safety helmets incorporate a combination of materials, including lightweight composites, fiberglass, and advanced thermoplastics. These materials not only enhance impact resistance but also reduce the overall weight of the helmet, reducing neck strain and improving comfort during extended use. In addition, all safety helmets include a chin strap that, when worn properly, maintains the position of the safety helmet in the event of a slip, trip, or fall.

Moreover, safety helmets can incorporate an array of additional features designed to address specific workplace risks. Many models include add-on faceshields or goggles to protect against projectiles, dust, and chemical splashes.

They may also have built-in hearing protection and communication systems to facilitate clear communication in noisy environments, enabling workers to stay connected and safe. However, head protection with integrated technology may not be suitable for some workplaces.

Employers should evaluate workplace hazards to determine the most appropriate head protection for each situation. If head protection is needed for the job, employers should consider investing in better head protection with safety helmets to better protect their workers.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2020, head injuries accounted for 5.8% of nonfatal occupational injuries involving days away from work.



Saftgard.com makes it easier than ever for visitors to find exactly what they are looking for by utilizing a guided navigation layout with a fully-optimized "smart" search engine. The responsive design enables use and access to more than 6,000 products with enhanced product content and imagery on your PC, smart phone, or tablet.

Moreover, existing Saf-T-Gard customers can link their account to a new Saftgard.com web login to review ALL past orders and invoices, create a "wish list" of favorite items, save carts to simplify the ordering/reordering process and so much more! Buyers without an existing Saf-T-Gard account can register for one online, or they can still search, browse, and order on Saftgard.com without a Saf-T-Gard account.

We invite you to spend a few minutes at Saftgard.com, and if you have not already, please register for an account to enable online ordering. Click [here](#) for a shortcut to the registration page, and click [here](#) for detailed instructions on how to link your Saf-T-Gard account to a Saftgard.com web login.

Five Safety Tips



1. FIRST AID FIRST - **First aid kits** are available in a variety of sizes and fill contents appropriate for your work area.

2. FIRST AID FIRST - Specialized first aid kits are available for **CPR**, **vehicles**, aircraft, watercraft, **bloodborne pathogen/body fluid clean-up**, and more.

3. FIRST AID FIRST - Outdoor workers have unique medical and first aid requirements including sunscreens, insect

Determining When to Use a Safety Helmet on the Job

Employers must conduct a hazard assessment at their job sites and based on the workplace hazards determine whether head protection is necessary. When head protection is needed, employers should consider using safety helmets instead of traditional hard hats so that employees are best protected against occupational head injuries.

Recommended Uses for Safety Helmets

1. **Construction Sites:** For construction sites, especially those with high risks of falling objects and debris, impacts from equipment, or slips, trips, and falls, safety helmets have enhanced impact resistance and additional features that offer superior protection compared to the components and construction of traditional hard hats.
2. **Oil and Gas Industry:** In these sectors where workers face multiple hazards, including potential exposure to chemicals and severe impacts, safety helmets with additional features can provide comprehensive protection.
3. **Working from Heights:** For tasks or jobs that involve working from heights, safety helmets offer protection of the entire head and include features that prevent the safety helmet from falling off.
4. **Electrical Work:** For tasks involving electrical work or proximity to electrical hazards, safety helmets with non-conductive materials (Class G and Class E) provide protection to prevent electrical shocks. However, some traditional hard hats also offer electrical protection.
5. **High-Temperature Environments:** In high temperatures or where there is exposure to molten materials, safety helmets with advanced heat resistant properties can provide additional protection to workers.
6. **Specialized Work Environments:** Jobs that require integrated faceshields, hearing protection or communication devices benefit from safety helmets designed with these features or the ability to add them on.
7. **Specific Regulatory Requirements:** Where safety helmets are mandated by regulations or industry standards, employers must comply with these requirements to ensure worker safety compliance.
8. **Low-Risk Environments:** Even in settings with no overhead hazards, safety helmets will provide comprehensive protection, especially if the risks can become more severe.

Click [here](#) to read more of the OSHA SHIB to learn how to properly store and evaluate your head protection prior to each use.

Saf-T-Gard supplies safety helmets for every application and industry. Click [here](#) to shop our selection of safety helmets online, or call customer service at **1-800-548-GARD (4273)** today for more information or to place an order.

SHOP SAFETY HELMETS

Shop Softgard.com for 20% Savings

repellent, and treatments for insect stings and [snake bites](#).

4. FIRST AID FIRST -

When was the last time you checked your **first aid kit** to be sure the contents were full?

5. FIRST AID FIRST -

And, by the way, OSHA 29 CFR 1910.151(b) requires that first aid supplies be readily available and Appendix A to 1910.151(b) identifies ANSI Z308.1 as a reference for first aid kit types and contents.

QUESTIONS Q&A ANSWERS



Question - What are OSHA's requirements in the Personal Protective Equipment standard as it pertains to employees exposed to cold weather? Specifically, it appears that there were no objective standards for cold weather gear, from any of the consensus standard organizations, on which to base a PPE hazard assessment.

Answer - The PPE standard for hand protection, 29 CFR 1910.138, specifies the selection criteria to be used when providing hand protection. However, unlike the other PPE standards for eye and face, head and foot protection, the hand protection regulation does not specify criteria for the actual equipment to be provided to employees. The standard states "Employers shall base the selection of the appropriate hand protection on an evaluation of the performance characteristics of the hand protection relative to the tasks to be

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Glove Coatings Make a Difference



Different coatings mean different grips.

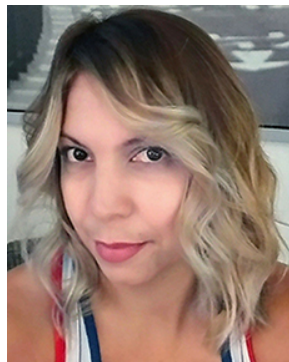
Industrial gloves are typically made with a liner dipped in a coating to help enhance grip in a variety of applications. From coatings that provide oil resistance to dry grip, the choices are many.

The below guide will help you understand and select the right type of coated gloves for your workplace by clarifying the differences.

NITRILE

performed, conditions present, duration of use, and the hazards and potential hazards identified." As stated in paragraph two of Appendix B, Assessment and Selection, "It should be the responsibility of the safety officer to exercise common sense and appropriate expertise to accomplish these tasks."

Saf-T-Gard Spotlight



Ania Rodriguez Escobales is our Export Sales Administrator, and she joined Saf-T-Gard in April 2018.

What Ania likes about Saf-T-Gard:

"I like the professional work environment and that the company is dedicated to results."

What makes Ania's day:

"Being able to fulfill my daily goals."

Ania's outside interests are:

"I enjoy sharing time with my family and exercising."

Anything else:

"I am from Puerto Rico, and I love the music!"



Respirator Training

"Is training required before a respirator is used?"

Yes, training must be provided to employees who are required to use respirators. The training must be comprehensive, understandable, and recur

Nitrile is a flexible and versatile material that has many different finishes; this offers great grips in a variety of applications from oily surfaces to wet surfaces. Nitrile offers protection from punctures, abrasions, and chemicals. Additionally, due to the thermal properties of nitrile, it can offer heat resistance; however, nitrile can become stiff and retain lower temperatures in colder settings.

Pros:

- Available in a variety of finishes
- Can offer heat resistance
- Abrasion resistance
- Chemical resistance

Cons:

- Not ideal in cold temperatures
- Certain finishes are not breathable
- Certain finishes are not liquid proof

MICROFOAM NITRILE

Microfoam nitrile is made from blowing tiny bubbles in nitrile while the glove is being dipped. This is a coating that has micro holes in it which offers great grip in dry, wet, and oily environments. Microfoam is soft and flexible, as well as resistant to abrasions, cuts, tears, and punctures.

Pros:

- Great grip in oily and wet applications
- Abrasion resistance
- Heat resistance
- Breathable coating

Cons:

- Not liquid proof
- Not ideal in cold temperatures
- Coating can shed

SMOOTH NITRILE

Smooth nitrile is a solid coating that offers liquid repellence, and it provides excellent dry grip performance. It features a water and oil proof coating, abrasion resistance, along with a high-level of durability.

Pros:

- Great oil grip
- Liquid repellent
- Heat resistance
- Abrasion resistance
- Chemical resistance

Cons:

- Not ideal in cold temperatures
- Not a breathable coating

POLYURETHANE

Polyurethane (PU) is a breathable coating that offers high tactile sensitivity, great dexterity, and low particulate shed. Ideal for non-oily and wet applications as the material is permeable but excellent in applications that need tactile sensitivity such as handling small parts. It is not recommended for use with high temperatures, and it has limited chemical resistance.

Pros:

- High tactile sensitivity
- Great dexterity

annually, and more often if necessary. This training should include at a minimum:

- Why the respirator is necessary and how improper fit, use, or maintenance can compromise its protective effect
- Limitations and capabilities of the respirator
- Effective use in emergency situations
- How to inspect, put on and remove, use, and check the seals
- Maintenance and storage
- Recognition of medical signs and symptoms that may limit or prevent effective use
- General requirements of OSHA's respirator standard, 29 CFR 1910.134

As I See It



It is January 2024 and Artificial Intelligence is all the rage. We asked an Artificial Intelligence (AI) program "How does a factory worker select industrial hearing protection?" Here was the reply, condensed for space. Send me an email (rrivkin@saftgard.com) if you would like to see the full reply.

Selecting the appropriate industrial hearing protection for a factory worker involves considering several factors to ensure effective noise reduction and comfort. Here's a guide on how a factory worker might go about selecting the right hearing protection:

- **Noise Assessment:** Evaluate the noise levels in the workplace using a sound level meter. This helps determine the level of protection required.
- **Understanding Noise Reduction Ratings**

- Low particulate shed
- Value coating

Cons:

- Not ideal for oily or wet applications
- Not recommended for high or low temperatures

POLYVINYL CHLORIDE

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) is an open celled foam that provides outstanding wet and dry grip performance. Foamed PVC can be thicker, which helps provide more cushioned comfort, and it helps provide a high level of abrasion resistance. PVC is ideal in lower temperature work because it retains its flexibility, so functionality is not compromised.

Pros:

- High wet and dry grip
- Abrasion resistance
- Great for lower temperature work

Cons:

- Low level of puncture resistance

NATURAL RUBBER

Natural rubber latex offers a great dry and wet grip with abrasion resistance and high puncture resistance. This coating offers limited chemical resistance. While natural rubber can be a suitable lower-cost option at some workplaces, it may pose problems for workers with latex skin allergies.

Pros:

- High wet and dry grip performance
- Puncture resistance
- Abrasion resistance
- Lower cost

Cons:

- Can cause skin allergies for people who are allergic to latex
- Limited chemical resistance

Saf-T-Gard carries a comprehensive selection of Honeywell hand protection products. Click [here](#) to shop them online or call customer service at **1-800-548-GARD (4273)** today for more information or to place an order.

BROWSE HONEYWELL HAND PROTECTION

Watch the FREE Superior Glove How to Understand and Apply ANSI Standards to Improve Hand Safety Webinar ON DEMAND

(NRR): Hearing protection devices come with NRR, which indicates their effectiveness in reducing noise. Higher NRR values offer greater protection.

- *Type of Hearing Protection:*
 - *Earplugs: These fit into the ear canal and can be disposable or reusable. They are compact and convenient.*
 - *Earmuffs: These cover the entire ear and are held in place by an adjustable headband. Earmuffs are effective for high-noise environments.*
- *Comfort and Fit: Comfort is crucial for prolonged use. Workers should try different types and sizes of hearing protection to find the most comfortable option. Ensure a proper fit to maximize effectiveness. Incorrectly fitted protection may not provide the desired level of noise reduction.*
- *Communication Requirements*
- *Durability and Maintenance*
- *Regulatory Compliance*
- *Custom Fit Options*
- *Climate and Environmental Considerations*
- *Training and Education*
- *Regular Audits and Assessments*

By considering these factors, a factory worker can make informed decisions when selecting industrial hearing protection, promoting both safety and comfort in the workplace.

So OK, the Artificial Intelligence software got the basics, but then Human Intelligence is necessary to professionally manage the process and consider other factors. And Saf-T-Gard has a great team with a lot of Human Intelligence (i.e. experience and expertise) just because we're Saf-T-Gard International - **Bringing Workers Home Safely Since 1936.**



Free Webinar

How to Understand and Apply
ANSI Standards to Improve Hand Safety

[WATCH NOW](#)

Not all safety gloves protect equally.

Gloves designed for one type of hazard may not sufficiently protect against another, even though they may look similar. So, how do you determine which gloves offer the right level of protection for your workers?

In this webinar, Superior Glove's Jill Dales will explain the ANSI standards that serve as industry guidelines for hand protection against common work hazards.

- Get a comprehensive overview of ANSI standards for cut, impact, heat, puncture, and abrasion
- Understand the basis of each ANSI standard and how their rating systems work
- Learn how to apply ANSI standards to select the right hand protection for your needs

[WATCH NOW](#)

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Saf-T-Gard is a major manufacturer, distributor, importer and exporter of safety solutions for industry since 1936.

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Sincerely,
Richard A. Rivkin, Saf-T-Gard CEO and Chairman of the Board