



Be Safe and Look Smart

The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (PPEW Regulation) came into force on January 1, 1993 with the main requirement being that personal protective equipment is to be supplied and used at work wherever there are risks to health and safety that cannot be adequately controlled by other means.

Ok, so protective clothing is essential when working within the greenkeeping industry, but there are so many new and exciting innovations in workwear that nowadays you don't have to look stupid to be safe!

Melissa Toombs looks at workwear legislation and four of today's best brands.

Interestingly, PPE is defined in the Regulations as 'all equipment (including clothing affording protection against the weather) which is intended to be worn or held by a person at work and which protects him/her against one or more risks to his/her health or safety'. This is important, as some employers in the greenkeeping industry have thought that waterproof and warm clothing is not classed as PPE. An employer cannot ask for money from an employee for PPE, whether it is returnable or not.

To ensure adequate protection is afforded to employees, risk assessments should be carried out and equipment carefully chosen and supplied by the employer. Ask your PPE supplier for advice if you are unsure, as various options may be available depending on the nature of the risks involved. All equipment purchased, however, should be 'CE' marked and comply with the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 2002.

Risk assessments should include the following six main hazard areas. Types of PPE are shown in each case;

- Eyes - Hazards: Chemical or metal splash, dust, projectiles, gas and vapour, radiation. Options: Safety spectacles, goggles, faceshields, visors.
- Head - Hazards: Impact from falling objects, risk of head bumping, hair entanglement. Options: A range of helmets and bump caps.
- Breathing - Hazards: dust, vapour and gas. Options: Disposable filtering facepiece or respirator, half or full face respirators, air-fed helmets, breathing apparatus.
- Protecting the body - Hazards: temperature extremes, adverse weather, chemical or metal splash, spray from pressure leaks or spray guns, impact or penetration, contaminated dust, excessive wear or

entanglement of own clothing. Options: Conventional or disposable overalls, boiler suits, waterproof jackets and trousers, specialist protective clothing, e.g. Hi-vis clothing, spraysuits, chainsaw wear.

- Hands and arms - Hazards: abrasion, temperature extremes, cuts and punctures, impact, chemicals, electric shock, skin infection, disease or contamination. Options: Gloves, gauntlets, mitts, wristcuffs, armllets.
- Feet and legs - Hazards: wet, electrostatic build-up, slipping, cuts and punctures, falling objects, molten metal and chemical splash, abrasion. Options: Safety boots and shoes with protective toecaps and penetration resistant mid-sole, gaiters, leggings, spats.
- N.B. Hearing protection and respiratory protective equipment provided for most work situations are not covered by PPEW Regulations because other regulations apply to them. Training is essential for those using PPE and should include reasons for use, how it is used, repaired or replaced and its limitations. Maintenance of PPE is important. It should be properly stored, cleaned and kept in good repair. Replacement should be in accordance with manufacturers requirements, e.g. Helmets, which are used daily and exposed to sunlight, have a realistic life span of about two years and should be replaced after this period, irrespective of any signs of wear or damage.

SAFETY EYEWEAR FOR GREENKEEPERS

The peace and tranquillity of the golf course early in the morning may seem a strange place to be concerned about eye protection - but health and safety issues surrounding greenkeeping are a major concern. When you have to work all day every day in all weather and light conditions - sometimes with golf balls flying towards you - then it's reassuring to know that today's safety eyewear is not just stylish and comfortable. It has been engineered to the highest safety standards and can actually enhance vision in poor light.

Nowadays, all safety eyewear used in the work environment has to meet rigorous European safety standards. You might be familiar with the oft-quoted code EN 166 1F. It sounds impressive - but what does it actually mean?

Effectively each group of numbers tells you just how good these products are - EN designates the European Safety standard that is certified for the product. 166 is the designation for eyewear. 1F tells you that the glasses are grade 1 optical quality - and 'F' is a level of impact protection - this test standard demands the lens can withstand a ball bearing fired at 80mph without shattering. Now isn't that good to know when you are in the firing line out on the fairway?

Amazingly safety eyewear is engineered to performance standards that may put expensive performance sports sunglasses to shame. This is best illustrated by looking at some of the top models on the market today.

SAFETY GLASSES: BEST BUYS

Course Care's bestseller is the Course Care Eyeshield - the superb safety spectacle. Available with clear, amber or brown lens and approved to EN 166 1F KN, these glasses feature:

- Impact protection up to grade F
- Ergonomical design, good field of vision
- Soft temple arms with spring effect
- Adjustable length to five positions
- Integrated brow, side and cheek guards and simple lens replacement.



Course Care Eyeshield's cost £14 per pair plus VAT

Safety glasses offer superb impact protection - but some jobs demand total wraparound protection - mixing and using herbicides for example. This is where goggles are so vital. There's no compromise with Chemor.

- The head strap is easily adjustable for a secure fit
- The lenses are anti-scratch on the outside and anti-fog on the inside
- They can even be worn over prescription spectacles

Specify Chemor for your safety goggles and you can be confident that it gives splash and airborne droplet protection - one size really does fit all.



Strathallan Safety Supplies Chemor safety glasses (£5.96 plus VAT) - offer full protection with built-in comfort and ventilation

BIGGA Regatta Safety/Sun Glasses provide complete protection against speed particles for your eyes. Features include:

- Soft touch
- Non-slip frame/arms
- Lightweight polycarbonate construction
- Full UV protection



Supplied with a drawstring microfibre pouch, which doubles up as a cleaning cloth, Regatta Safety/Sun Glasses cost £15 per pair or £25 if supplied with a protective case and three pairs of interchangeable lenses for varying sunlight strength - available from BIGGA HQ

Sometimes, budget is the main pre-requisite for safety glasses - and here Exor stands head and shoulders above the crowd. For the price you get a superb specification. The wraparound style provides unsurpassed all-round protection. The arms adjust for both length and angle - so Exor can be personalised to fit heads of all shapes and sizes. Here too the grade one lenses come in every variation you need - clear, grey sun lens or orange for low light levels. The glasses are still approved to EN166 1F and there's even a free neck cord to help ensure you don't forget which hole or fairway you left them on!



Exor safety glasses cost £3 per pair plus VAT and are available from Strathallan Safety Supplies

One final word on safety eyewear - lenses. Today's safety eyewear lenses are highly sophisticated and offer remarkable levels of protection. They are probably far superior to many sunglasses. Clear lenses don't just protect against impact - they can be anti-scratch, anti-fog - or both! They also give 100% protection against harmful UV radiation. This menace may be lurking unseen even on overcast days.

Yellow and orange lenses enhance vision in poor light - and grey sun lenses filter out intense light to make working in bright conditions so much more comfortable - again while blocking harmful UV radiation.

WINTER WARMERS



GET DRESSED FOR WINTER

Features include:

- Fully taped seams
- Double layer fabric
- Concealed hood, cuff and waist adjustment.

Normally selling at £120 plus VAT, readers can purchase the suit (while stocks last) at only £85 plus VAT.



The Course Care Driza-Bone Greenkeeper Suit is high quality, waterproof, breathable, lightweight and practical



The First Base Cap is a ventilated, attractively styled bump cap offering an affordable degree of head protection. Available from Course Care in navy or green, the cap costs £13.85 plus VAT



Showa has been a pioneer in the design of coated knit gloves for 25 years. They specialise in the creation and manufacture of gloves, building their development process around innovation and ultimate quality. This gives the wearer greater safety, greater dexterity and greater comfort, thereby reducing the need for wearers to remove their hand protection. Gloves pictured cost £2.99 plus VAT from Strathallan Safety Supplies



Strathallan Safety Supplies in Fife has discovered how well Mascot® comply with the needs and demands of greenkeepers. Some of their most popular products among greenkeepers are the Genova Pilot Jacket (£66.80 plus VAT) and the Savona Parka Jacket (£92.24 plus VAT), in combination with the Wolfurt Overtrousers (£41.99 plus VAT). All three of these products are waterproof, windproof, breathable and tough.



This does exactly what it says on the tin. The Four Seasons Breaker is just that - perfect to wear all year round. This item is a multi-option pullover style top with a short zip and elasticated draw cord. This breaker zips off in two places to create three different garments - full sleeve, half sleeve and sleeveless top. The Four Seasons breaker costs £26 and is available from BIGGA HQ



Made with porelle membrane sandwiched between two textile layers, these SealSkinz gloves are 100% waterproof and breathable and designed to offer excellent grip and dexterity in wet conditions. Retailing at £22.50, BIGGA offer a discount price of £16 + £1 p&p to members



Functional fleece jacket. An extremely hard-wearing jacket in 100% windproof fleece with Cordura reinforcement to exposed areas. RRP £64.58 plus VAT, available from Blaklader

Blåkläder products are designed with the latest technical fabrics that offer the wearer excellent durability and strength together with the comfort and freedom of movement required for working garments. Trousers in cotton or harder wearing polyester/cotton can now have Cordura® knee pad pockets and functional pockets for extra tools, pencils and mobile phones. Winter jackets are made with Blåkläder "WabTech" fabric which is waterproof, windproof and breathable. Based on many years of experience of making working clothes for those harsh Swedish Winters, Blåkläder are promoting the three-layer principle for working outside in the cold winter months.

This includes:

- 1). A base 'wicking' layer that wicks any moisture away from the skin and regulates body temperature.
- 2). An intermediate layer that wicks the moisture further away from the body and insulates against cold thereby maintaining your body heat.
- 3). A breathable outer layer that protects you from the cold, wind and rain and releases the moisture so it can evaporate on the outside.

Arco were approached and asked if they wished to contribute to this article but declined the invitation. BIGGA members are entitled to a 20% discount on certain Arco products.



See this month's buyers guide for other workwear specialists

Heavy-duty trousers. Made in extra hard-wearing 330gsm polyester/cotton with Cordura reinforcement to exposed areas. RRP £49.91 plus VAT, available from Blaklader



Craftsman's trousers. Made in hard-wearing 300gsm polyester/cotton with Cordura knee pad pockets and many functional pockets. RRP £29.08 plus VAT, available from Blaklader

The combination of these Mascotex® products generates a fully waterproof set that keeps you warm and still allows the body to transport perspiration away from the skin.

The Mascotex® products are certified according to the norm EN 343, the European standard for wind and weather protection.