



SAFE AND WARM

By Melissa Toombs

For Course Managers and Greenkeepers there's more to preparing for winter than getting the course ready. Now is an ideal time to invest in some high-quality Safety and Winter Workwear.

Autumn is traditionally the time for workwear renewal and there are a number of improved fabrics on the market right now with many offering breathability as well as being waterproof. Waterproofs, gloves, fleeces, safety goggles and hard hats are the popular "kit" and, of course a decent pair of boots.

The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 requires that personal protective equipment is supplied and used at work wherever there are risks to health and safety that cannot be adequately controlled by other means.

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.

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 - 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.

Today's safety eyewear lenses are highly sophisticated and offer remarkable levels of protection. 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.

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.

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.

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.

The wearing of PPE is akin to the introduction of compulsory seat belts use. After initial resistance it soon becomes second nature and people wear it without thinking making the workplace a safer environment.

GREENKEEPER WEAR FROM THE HOME OF GOLF

In all professional clothing and footwear, appearance and comfort are important considerations but most critical of all is the safety and wellbeing of those who are wearing it. Hoggs of Fife know that the right greenkeeping footwear is vital for a greenkeeper's comfort and safety. They know this because they have spoken to a good many greenkeepers as part of their ongoing product development programme and because they have been making fine working footwear since 1888. Right now, Hoggs can offer 21 different safety boot styles and more than a dozen non-safety styles and 17 of their work boot styles are fitted with fully waterproof and breathable membranes.



The recently launched GK Pro boots, were designed in association with greenkeeping professionals to provide the ultimate in comfort, safety and waterproof-ness.



A price notch down from the Gore-Tex® waterproofs are the Green King™ waterproofs, seen here on bunker raking duty. The Green King™ waterproofs range consists of Long Coat with built-in hood, Over-trousers, Leggings and Gaiters all made with a state-of-the-art hardwearing Ripstop™ fabric.

BIGGA members are eligible for a 25% discount off the already very keen prices. For more information contact Hoggs of Fife Ltd, Tel: 01334 653733 Email: sales@hoggs.co.uk Purchasing will be even easier from mid-October when a full e-commerce website goes live at www.greenkeeperwear.com

TAKING CARE ON THE COURSE

Course Care's range of workwear, foul weather wear, promotional wear and protective clothing meets all the needs of those working in Turf Maintenance.



As Autumn and Winter loom, most greenkeepers will be checking to see that they have serviceable waterproofs at the ready. The Working Climate Gore-Tex® waterproofs are made from triple-layer Taslan, the toughest fabric made by W.L. Gore, the Working Climate jacket and over-trousers are lightweight, fully waterproof and breathable and tailor-made for the demands of a rugged outdoor life. The Working Climate jacket is interactive which means that it can be paired up with a zip-in Windstopper® waistcoat for the colder months.



The Driza-Bone Greenkeeper Suit is waterproof, breathable, lightweight and practical. The jacket features fully taped seamed waterproof outer as well as lining, providing extra durability and weather protection while sacrificing very little in terms of lightness. There is a concealed hood and Velcro adjustments to cuffs. Trousers are also 2-layer and have 2 zipped pockets, a back flap pocket and drawcord adjustable waist.

The Driza-Bone suit from Course Care is available for a limited period with a £35 discount! Tel: 0845 600 3572 www.course-care.co.uk

PREMIUM GREENKEEPER MERCHANDISE FROM CWD

BIGGA recently announced a new deal with Corporate Workwear Direct (CWD) to supply a new comprehensive range of Workwear garments and Personal Protective Equipment.

The range will now include Polo Shirts, Fleeces, Safety Footwear, Gloves and High-Visibility garments as well as an improved range of top quality waterproof suits, perfect for keeping you safe and warm.



These Thermal Gloves (HVLCSGS) have a heavyweight knitted liner, latex coating and are high visibility fleece lined. Ideal for Winter Conditions. £3.00 a pair



These Safety Goggles (BBGPG) feature a polycarbonate lens and PVC frame. Direct vented and lightweight at only £1.75 there's no excuse for not being safe!



This Safety Helmet (BBESH) features plastic 6 point harness, slip ratchet adjustment and is supplied complete with a sweatband. £2.95



Budget Wet-Suit (NBDS) Lightweight nylon with PVC waterproof coating, the jacket features full zip opening with attached folding hood and two front pockets concealed behind wide flaps. The trousers have an elasticated waist, through access pockets and adjustable stud fastening at the ankle. £5.75 for the set



These Hard Wearing Boots feature a 4 'D' ring boot with midsole and a dual density PU anti-static sole. Other features include: 200 joule steel toe cap, shock absorber heel, anti-slip, leather upper, acid and alkali resistant, oil resistant sole and heat resistant to 200 degrees Celsius. £25.50 a pair.

Save time and money by ordering direct from BIGGA. We can now offer quicker delivery times and a better range of products direct from stock at more competitive prices.

BIGGA members and golf clubs with members will receive a 10% discount. Check out the BIGGA website for a full list of available products – www.bigga.org.uk