

## **PPE (PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT) INFORMATION SHEET WASTE 24 SUPPORT DOCUMENT**

*This WISH information document is aimed at health and safety improvements in the waste management industry. The Health and Safety Executive provided support to WISH in producing this guidance. This guidance may go further than the minimum you need to do to comply with the law with regard to health and safety*

**This information sheet is one of a series of supporting documents to WASTE 24 (Working on the Public Highway Street Cleaning). It should be read in conjunction with WASTE 24. This sheet covers PPE. The other support sheets being INFO 14 on monitoring, INFO 16 on risk assessment, INFO 17 on signage and INFO 18 on vehicles.**

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### **1. Introduction and scope**

The purpose of this document is to outline the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and additional equipment that should be worn or be available as required following a comprehensive risk assessment of the tasks to be undertaken.

Guidance on the appropriate standard for essential PPE applies to operational staff as well as supervisors, managers and client monitoring staff while working on operational sites.

## 2. References

This document has been written with reference to the below, which you may want to read:

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (as amended)
- The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (as amended)
- Safety at Street Works and Road Works Code of Practice (Red Book)

## 3. Essential PPE

This is PPE that is likely to be required to undertake cleansing work on the highway.

BS EN ISO 20471:2013+A1:2016 Class 2 high visibility vest is the minimum standard for all staff engaged in cleansing operations on the highway and must be worn at all times if required by the risk assessment.

The colour of the high visibility clothing depends on risk assessment and for use on the Highway is usually orange or yellow. Purely for information it is generally recognised that orange is more visible in bright sunlight and yellow is more visible when it is dark. In addition, it is thought that in some circumstances yellow can attract certain insects.

BS EN ISO 20471:2013+A1:2016 Class 3 high visibility jacket (long sleeve) is required for work on high speed roads with a speed limit of 50 mph or above. High visibility trousers should also be worn on higher risk roads to increase visibility. Individual risk assessments may require that Class 3 standard and the use of high visibility trousers (BS EN ISO 20471:2013 Class 1) be applied to other highway activities. This standard is also required for staff setting out traffic management, cones, signs etc.

**Note:** In Scotland and Wales high visibility jackets are to have full sleeves, unless a risk assessment shows that full sleeves would present increased risk, in which case three quarter length sleeves are appropriate for work on all roads.

Steel or composite toe cap and mid-sole protected safety footwear with ankle support to BS EN ISO 20345:2004.

Suitable protective safety gloves that can provide suitable protection when in contact with waste in dry and wet weather.

## 4. Additional PPE

Other equipment can be supplied providing it complies with the above requirements. The following PPE may be considered and worn as appropriate:

- Waterproof jacket (ideally breathable for manual occupations) - high visibility with reflective tapes conforming to BS EN 20471:2013
- Waterproof over-trousers (ideally breathable for manual occupations) – high visibility with reflective tapes conforming to BS EN 20471:2013
- Working trousers (with reinforced side panels from thigh to ankle, to protect staff against possible cuts when carrying sacks of waste)
- Hat or cap to provide sun protection
- Eye protection
- Some operators may also stipulate a protective helmet with chinstrap and visor (helmet to BS EN 397: 2012) or bump hat

In addition, the following optional equipment may be considered for inclusion, where appropriate, to enhance the working environment in extreme weather:

- Sweatshirt
- Warm jacket
- Hat suitable for warmth in cold weather

## 5. Management

All PPE must be provided free of charge where risks cannot be controlled by other means. Consideration should also be given to the appropriate and safe storage of PPE and additional equipment.

All PPE should be kept clean, properly maintained and replaced as necessary.

Staff training and information should include the correct use, cleaning and maintenance of PPE.

There must be sufficient supervision and monitoring to ensure PPE is correctly worn, fastened, kept clean, maintained and not obscured by other clothing or equipment.

## Disclaimer and WISH

This information document has been prepared by health and safety practitioners to assist health and safety improvements in the waste management industry. It is endorsed by the WISH (Waste Industry Safety and Health) Forum. This information document is not formal guidance and represents good practice, which typically goes beyond the strict requirements of health and safety law.

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The Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) Forum exists to communicate and consult with key stakeholders, including local and national government bodies, equipment manufacturers, trade associations, professional associations and trade unions. The aim of WISH is to identify, devise and promote activities to improve industry health and safety performance.