TOTAL GROUP

SAFETY & EQUIPMENT GUIDE

Safety Equipment for Canadian Warehouses and Manufacturing

Practical equipment guidance for industrial teams.

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ONLINE GUIDE
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General information only. Confirm site-specific equipment decisions, applicable requirements, and manufacturer instructions before purchase or use.

Manufacturing and warehouse teams use safety equipment to help control identified residual exposure and to prepare for credible emergencies. The useful question is not “what does every facility need?” It is “what do our work areas, processes, materials, equipment, layout, and people require after stronger controls have been considered?”

1 Key Takeaways

- Start with the task, work area, exposure route, and credible emergency scenario.
- PPE is one layer of control and should not replace elimination, substitution, engineering, or administrative controls.
- Emergency resources should reflect the actual facility, materials, access, communications, and trained response arrangements.
- Gas detection, fall protection, eyewash, and first aid are risk-specific pathways, not a universal warehouse checklist.

2 Begin with the work area and its hazards

A practical assessment looks at work practices, processes, procedures, materials, equipment, layout, traffic routes, storage, environmental conditions, and the people doing the work. CCOHS notes that one task may involve more than one hazard and more than one type of protection. The hierarchy of controls places elimination and substitution ahead of other methods; PPE helps limit exposure only

when it is correctly selected and used for the specific hazard. CCOHS: Hazard and Risk—Hierarchy of Controls

That hierarchy matters in a warehouse or plant. A piece of PPE may be part of the answer, but it should sit within the wider control strategy for the process, layout, movement, storage, and emergency plan.

3 PPE and workwear: support the residual hazard

Once the work assessment identifies a residual exposure, selection should consider the protection required as well as fit, comfort, compatibility, maintenance, worker involvement, and practical use. CCOHS recommends reviewing the task and workstation, relevant work practices, equipment, products, layout, environment, and individual factors before selecting PPE. CCOHS: Designing an Effective PPE Program

Use PPE and workwear to find relevant equipment categories after that review. Do not assume that any garment, glove, face protection, footwear, or respiratory item is suitable without checking the documented hazard, the product instructions, and the site process.

4 Site safety: support movement, storage, access, and readiness

Facility layout influences whether controls remain usable through a shift. Pedestrian routes, storage, access and egress, clean-up needs, emergency-resource locations, and changing work zones should all be visible and manageable. Site-safety equipment can support the work-area controls identified by the facility, but it does not replace the underlying traffic, housekeeping, storage, or access process.

Review these controls whenever racking, production flow, materials, contractors, or work areas change. The goal is to keep protections and response resources clear, accessible, and understandable in the actual operating environment.

5 Fire and emergency equipment: build around credible events

CCOHS states that emergency planning can identify gaps in equipment, trained personnel, and supplies before an emergency occurs. The plan should begin with a vulnerability assessment that considers likely events, prevention and response measures, and what is needed for each situation. Possible resources can include communication equipment, emergency protective clothing, fire-fighting equipment, rescue equipment, detection equipment, medical supplies, and trained personnel. CCOHS: Emergency Planning

Explore fire and emergency equipment only in the context of the site's emergency plan. Equipment location, access, inspection, communications, trained roles, and the requirements that apply to the facility are as important as the product category.

6 Medical, first aid, eyewash, and shower pathways

First-aid readiness should match the hazards, workforce, and access to help at the particular workplace. Where a task or material creates a credible eye, face, or body-contact exposure, emergency eyewash or shower selection should follow the job hazard analysis and the likely contact area. CCOHS describes eyewash and shower equipment as a backup to safe work procedures and PPE because incidental exposure can still occur. CCOHS: Emergency Showers and Eyewash Stations

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Use medical and first-aid equipment to support the readiness needs established by the workplace. Do not treat an eyewash station, personal wash bottle, or first-aid kit as a substitute for controlling a hazardous exposure or confirming the applicable requirements.

7 Fall protection and gas detection only when the assessed work calls for them

Where work at heights is identified, start by considering whether the work can be eliminated at height or protected through other controls before selecting personal systems. Fall protection and rescue equipment belongs within a broader work-at-heights and rescue arrangement, not as an isolated purchase.

Where a confined space or other assessed atmospheric hazard is present, CCOHS advises beginning with a hazard assessment and notes that testing may occur before, during, or continuously through entry depending on the hazards and risks. Confirm the legal requirements that apply to the actual entry and jurisdiction. The instrument must be appropriate, calibrated to manufacturer instructions, and used by a qualified or competent person. CCOHS: Confined Space—Atmospheric Testing Review gas detection and atmospheric-monitoring equipment only for the assessed application. A monitor is one component of a complete entry or work-control process.

8 A five-step selection workflow

1. Identify the task, hazard, exposure route, affected people, and work area.
2. Consider higher-order controls before relying on equipment.
3. Define what equipment must protect against or enable in an emergency.
4. Confirm fit, compatibility, care, storage, inspection, and manufacturer instructions.
5. Review the equipment and response plan after process, material, layout, or staffing changes.

9 Limits of this guide

This guide is general information, not legal, engineering, medical, industrial-hygiene, or site-specific safety advice. It does not prescribe a universal warehouse or manufacturing equipment list, detector configuration, fall-protection arrangement, eyewash/shower design, or first-aid provision. Confirm current requirements with the relevant authority, manufacturer information, and qualified safety expertise for the actual work.

10 Discuss your facility requirements with Total Group

Total Group can help your team organize an equipment discussion around the work, hazards, facility conditions, and response needs. Request information to discuss your requirements.

11 References

- CCOHS — Hazard and Risk: Hierarchy of Controls
- CCOHS — Designing an Effective PPE Program
- CCOHS — Emergency Planning
- CCOHS — Emergency Showers and Eyewash Stations
- CCOHS — Confined Space: Atmospheric Testing

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