**PAYmasters**

# PPE: Foot Protection Overview

# Handout

**Overview**

What features make safety shoes different from regular 'street' shoes? Basically, they are designed to protect the foot and toes in areas most likely to be injured. There are many dif-ferent types and designs of protective footwear.

**Types of protective footwear**

- A few of the different types of protective footwear include:

- Safety shoes — have toe guards that meet requirements of the ASTM F-2412-2005 and ASTM F-2413-2005 or ANSI Z41 (ANSI Z41-1999 or ANSI Z41-1991) Standards. Steel, reinforced plastic, and hard rubber are used to protect toes, depending upon their intended use.

- Metatarsal guards — instep guards to protect the top of the foot from impacts. Metal guards extend over the top of the shoe, rather than just over the toes.

- Conductive shoes — prevent the accumulation of static electricity that builds up in the body of the wearer,

- Electrical hazard shoes — offer protection against shock hazards from contact with exposed circuits.

- Puncture resistant shoes — protect against hazards of stepping on sharp objects that can penetrate the soles.

- Slip resistant shoes — have soles which provide improved traction in situations where slipping hazards exist

- When choosing safety footwear, look for shoes that meet the ASTM F-2412-2005 and ASTM F-2413-2005 or ANSI Z41 (ANSI Z41-1999 or ANSI Z41-1991) Standards.

**What must my employer do?**

Your employer must train you on the need for and use of protective footwear. Training should include:

- Information on when PPE is needed.

- An explanation on what protective footwear is required, and where to obtain it.

- How to put on, take off, adjust, and wear protective footwear.

- The limitations of the PPE.

- The proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of the PPE.

**What must I do?**

For your safety, it is crucial that you understand and follow your company's procedures for foot protection. If you have any questions regarding how to protect your feet from injury on the job, ask your supervisor.