HAZARD ASSESSMENT GUIDE

In order to determine the need for PPE, a walk-through survey of the workplace should be done to identify hazards. These are the basic hazards that you should look for:

- Impact
- Penetration
- Compression (roll over)
- Chemical
- Heat
- Harmful dust
- Light (optical) radiation

During the survey, you should look for:

- Machinery, processes, or sources of motion where any movement of tools, machine part or personnel could result in collision with stationary objects;

- Sources of high temperatures that could cause burns, eye injuries, or ignite protective equipment;

- Types of chemical exposures;

- Sources of light radiation (welding, brazing, cutting, furnaces, heat treating, high intensity lights, etc.);

- Sources of falling objects or potential for dropping objects;

- Sources of sharp objects that might pierce feet or cut hands;

- Sources of rolling or pinching objects that could crush feet;

- The layouts of the workplace and the location of co-workers;

- Any electrical hazards.

Also, you should check injury/accident data to help identify problem areas.

After you assess the hazards in your workplace, organize and analyze the information to decide what protective equipment is needed. You should estimate how serious each hazard is in terms of its level of risk and potential to cause injury. Also, consider the possibility of a worker being exposed to several

hazards at once.

1. Selecting PPE to guard against the hazards and the type of PPE available and what it can do (impact protection, splash protection, etc.)

2. Compare the hazards to the capabilities of the PPE.

3. Selecting PPE that ensures a level of protection greater than the minimum required to protect employees from the hazards.

4. Fit PPE users and give instructions on the care and use of the equipment. It is very important that users are aware of all warning labels and limitations of their PPE.

As a reminder, workplace hazards should be reassessed as needed by identifying and evaluating new equipment and processes, reviewing accident records, and re-evaluating the suitability of previously selected PPE.