PPE Standards Cheat Sheet for UAE Buyers

EN standards by hazard: what each covers and what to check before you buy. Reviewed 19 October 2026.

Head protection

Falling objects, bumps and electrical contact.

Item	Standard	What it covers	Check
Industrial safety helmet	EN 397	Impact, penetration and flame resistance; optional low-temperature and electrical properties are marked on the shell	Marking inside the shell, manufacture date and shell life
Bump cap	EN 812	Protection against bumping into fixed objects in low-headroom areas, not falling objects	Not a substitute for a helmet where objects can fall
Helmet for electrical work	EN 50365	Electrically insulating helmets for low-voltage work	Check the voltage rating against the task

Eye and face protection

Dust, splash, impact, radiation and welding.

Item	Standard	What it covers	Check
Spectacles, goggles, face shields	EN 166	General requirements: mechanical strength, optical class and protection against liquids, dust and molten metal, shown as code letters on the frame and lens	Read the frame and lens codes for the hazard, e.g. droplets, dust or impact
Welding filters	EN 169	Filter shade numbers for welding and related processes	Shade number must match the process and current
Welding eye protectors	EN 175	Equipment for eye and face protection during welding	Use with the correct EN 169 filter

Hearing protection

Noise exposure.

Item	Standard	What it covers	Check
Earmuffs and earplugs	EN 352	Attenuation performance, shown as an SNR value in decibels	Match attenuation to the measured noise level, avoid over-protection that isolates the wearer

Respiratory protection

Dust, fumes, gases and oxygen-deficient atmospheres.

Item	Standard	What it covers	Check
Disposable filtering masks (FFP1, FFP2, FFP3)	EN 149	Filtering half masks against particles, graded by filter efficiency	FFP3 for finer or more hazardous dust; check the valve and fit
Reusable half masks	EN 140	Half masks that take replaceable filters	Fit-test and use with the correct filter
Gas, vapour and particle filters	EN 14387 and EN 143	Gas and combined filters (letter and colour coded) and particle filters	Filter type and class must match the contaminant
Full-face masks	EN 136	Full-face masks with higher protection factors and eye protection	Fit-test and use with the correct filter
Self-contained breathing apparatus	EN 137	Breathing apparatus for oxygen-deficient or unknown atmospheres	Training and servicing are required; filters are not adequate here

Hand protection

Cuts, abrasion, chemicals, heat, cold and electricity.

Item	Standard	What it covers	Check
Mechanical-risk gloves	EN 388	Abrasion, blade cut, tear and puncture performance levels, plus an impact and a cut-resistance letter where tested	The code shows four numbers and a letter; compare the levels for your task
Chemical-resistant gloves	EN ISO 374-1	Protection against chemicals and micro-organisms, with type A, B or C by chemical breakthrough time	Check the listed chemicals for the exact substance you handle
Heat-resistant gloves	EN 407	Contact heat, flame and molten metal splash performance	Check the contact heat level against the process temperature
Cold-resistant gloves	EN 511	Convective cold, contact cold and water permeability	Use for cold stores and freezers
Insulating gloves for electrical work	EN 60903	Live-working gloves by voltage class	Voltage class and test date must be current

Foot protection

Impact, compression, penetration, slips and chemicals.

Item	Standard	What it covers	Check
Safety footwear	EN ISO 20345	Toe protection for 200 joules of impact, with SB, S1, S1P, S2 and S3 grades; S3 adds water resistance and a penetration-resistant midsole	Read the grade code and the slip-resistance mark such as SRC
Protective footwear	EN ISO 20346	Toe protection tested at 100 joules	Lower impact protection than safety footwear
Occupational footwear	EN ISO 20347	Footwear without toe protection	Not for areas where objects can fall

Body protection and clothing

Visibility, heat and flame, static, welding, chemicals, weather.

Item	Standard	What it covers	Check
High-visibility clothing	EN ISO 20471	Background and reflective material areas in classes 1 to 3	Class 2 or 3 is typical where vehicles or plant operate
Heat and flame protective clothing	EN ISO 11612	Limited flame spread plus heat protection codes such as A, B, C, D, E and F	Check which heat codes are marked
Antistatic clothing	EN 1149-5	Electrostatic dissipation, important in flammable atmospheres	Does not by itself protect against flame
Welding clothing	EN ISO 11611	Protection against spatter and brief flame contact in welding	Class 1 or 2 depending on the process
Limited flame spread	EN ISO 14116	Reduced flame spread, for use with other protection	Not a flame-resistant standard on its own
Chemical protective coveralls, type 6	EN 13034	Limited splash protection against liquid chemicals	Not for jet or full-body liquid exposure
Foul-weather clothing	EN 343	Protection against rain and wind	Check water penetration and breathability classes

Fall protection

Work at height, positioning and rescue.

Item	Standard	What it covers	Check
Full-body harness	EN 361	Harness for fall arrest	Inspect before every use; fit and adjust correctly
Work positioning belts and harnesses	EN 358	Work positioning and restraint	Not for fall arrest by itself
Lanyards and energy absorbers	EN 354 and EN 355	Lanyards and absorbers that limit the fall force	Check length and the maximum clearance required
Retractable fall arresters	EN 360	Self-retracting lifelines	Check anchor point and clearance
Connectors	EN 362	Connectors such as karabiners	Gate must lock and be compatible
Anchor devices	EN 795	Anchor points, rails and lines for fall protection	Fit for the structure and the number of users
Fall arrest systems	EN 363	How the components combine into one system	Components must be compatible

Fire safety

Portable firefighting equipment.

Item	Standard	What it covers	Check
Portable fire extinguishers	EN 3	Performance, fire ratings and markings of portable extinguishers	Match the extinguisher class to the fire risk; follow local Civil Defence requirements

How to check PPE is genuine

• Look for the EN number on the product or label, and check that it matches the hazard, not just the product type.

• Ask for the declaration of conformity and the certificate or test report for the exact model.

• Category III products, such as respirators and fall protection, should carry the CE mark followed by a four-digit notified body number. Ask for that body's certificate.

• Check the manufacture date, shelf life and inspection requirements; helmets, harnesses and lanyards have service lives.

• If a price is far below the market for a certified item, ask why. Counterfeit PPE is a real risk.

This guide is a general summary for buyers. It is not legal advice or a full statement of the standards. Your project HSE plan, your consultant and the relevant authority set the actual requirements, and the standards themselves are the authoritative text.