



Ergonomics and Personal Protective Equipment

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Current legislation / standards

Directive 89/686 :

ANNEX II : BASIC HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO ALL PPE

PPE must provide adequate protection against all risks encountered.

1.1. Design principles

1.1.1. Ergonomics

PPE must be so designed and manufactured that in the foreseeable conditions of use for which it is intended the user can perform the risk-related activity normally whilst enjoying appropriate protection of the highest possible level.

Current legislation / standards

Directive 89/656 :

SECTION II : EMPLOYERS' OBLIGATIONS

Article 4 : General provisions

1. Personal protective equipment must comply with the relevant Community provisions on design and manufacture with respect to safety and health.

All personal protective equipment must:

- (a) be appropriate for the risks involved, without itself leading to any increased risk;
- (b) correspond to existing conditions at the workplace;
- (c) **take account of ergonomic requirements and the worker's state of health;**
- (d) fit the wearer correctly after any necessary adjustment.

Current legislation / standards

CEN/TC 122/JWG 9 - Ergonomics of personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Scope :

Standardisation of ergonomic aspects of PPE (The standards are intended for use by the PPE-TC's in connection with the integration of ergonomic aspects into the product standards elaborated by the PPE-TC's, as well as by the manufacturers, where no product standards in the area are available).
- Published harmonised standard :

EN 13921:2007 : Personal protective equipment - Ergonomic principles

Market reality

- Comfort – comfort – comfort
- Flexibility – multi-risk
- Integration

- Economic reality

Market reality

- Product improvements ?
- Assessment of PPE ?
- Assessment of ensembles – systems ?
- Role employers – public procurement ?

Future

- Revision of PPE Directive 89/686
- Programming mandate M/509 : comfort and ergonomics
- R&D projects

Future

- Complexity ensembles / systems
- User instructions
- Assessment to different legislation
- Expectations users

Conclusions

- Today :
 - Some steps
 - Limited structure
 - Limited uniform approach
- Future :
 - Need for further work
 - Need for more structured and uniform approach
 - Need for cooperation between experts from different fields



Thank you for your attention

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