**hair and beauty – Person protective equipment (PPE)**

# 1 of 13 – Welcome

Welcome to this session on the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992.

In this session we will be covering:

* Conduct a risk assessment to identify the PPE needed
* Maintain and store the PPE properly
* Provide instructions on how to use it safely

# 2 of 13 - PPE

Under the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992, employers have a legal obligation to provide suitable equipment to protect their employees against health and safety risks at work.

Where in other sectors, for example, construction, this could relate to helmets, steel toe-cap boots, or overalls, it’s easy to understand why people need to wear them.

From a safety point of view, PPE should always be used as a last resort. In hair and beauty, employers are required to:

* Conduct a risk assessment to identify the PPE needed
* Maintain and store the PPE properly
* Provide instructions on how to use it safely

However, in situations where there are risks to health and safety that cannot be adequately controlled in other ways, then PPE must be supplied.

# 3 of 13 – Employees obligations under PPE

The Regulations require the employees to:

Correctly use the PPE provided by their employer

Hairdressers, barbers and beauty therapists use chemicals in their work on a daily basis. These chemicals range from shampoos and conditioning products, to lightening and dyeing compounds.

You have an obligation to your employer to wear the appropriate protective equipment during all chemical treatments and services.

# 4 of 13 – Employees obligations under PPE

In beauty businesses the therapists wear a uniform at all times. The tabs below identify the PPE that employers will provide for hair services and when they must be worn.

**Shampooing**

* What do I need to wear

Non-latex disposable gloves

Towel

Gown

* Why do I need to wear it?

There is a risk of developing a sensitivity or intolerance to the chemical compounds

These services can cause an occupational health hazard called dermatitis

**Conditioning**

* What do I need to wear

Non-latex disposable gloves

Towel

Gown

* Why do I need to wear it?

You don’t need to wear an apron for these services as your uniform provides enough protection against splashes

**Treatments**

* What do I need to wear

Non-latex disposable gloves

Plastic aprons

Towel

Gown

* Why do I need to wear it?

Your apron will prevent chemicals from damaging your clothes and reaching the skin

Many of these chemicals are alkaline and will burn, as well as stain or bleach your skin

**Semi-permanent**

* What do I need to wear

Non-latex disposable gloves

Plastic aprons

Towel

Gown

* Why do I need to wear it?

Hairdressers, barbers and beauty therapists use chemicals in their work on a daily basis

These chemicals range from shampoos and conditioning products, to lightening and dyeing compounds

**Highlights**

* What do I need to wear

Non-latex disposable gloves

Plastic aprons

Towel

Gown

* Why do I need to wear it?

Serious allergic reactions can causes breathing problems or worse, **anaphylactic shock**

This is life-threatening allergic reaction to an antigen to which the body has become hypersensitive

**Colouring**

* What do I need to wear

Non-latex disposable gloves

Plastic aprons

Towel

Gown

* Why do I need to wear it?

Under the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992, employers have a legal obligation to provide suitable equipment to protect their employees against health and safety risks at work

**Bleaching**

* What do I need to wear

Non-latex disposable gloves

Plastic aprons

Towel

Gown

* Why do I need to wear it?

You have an obligation to your employer to wear the appropriate protective equipment during all chemical treatments and services

**Lightening**

* What do I need to wear

Non-latex disposable gloves

Plastic aprons

Towel

Gown

* Why do I need to wear it?

You need to wear other options, because some people have an intolerance to latex

Remember it could be the clients that have an allergy

**Perming**

* What do I need to wear

Non-latex disposable gloves

Plastic aprons

Towel

Gown

* Why do I need to wear it?

Your employer provides PPE for the clients as well

They are not obliged to by law, but it would be extremely unprofessional if clients were affected by the processes that you provide

# 5 of 13 – Question 1

How do employers know if PPE is needed in their workplaces?

* Because the HSE has advised them to
* Their staff will identify the technical processes require them
* Because they do a risk assessment to identify the needs
* They can find out online if they need it

The correct answer is **because they do a risk assessment to identify the needs**

# 6 of 13 – Question 2

The employer should provide instructions for the use of PPE

* True
* False

The correct answer is **true**

# 7 of 13 – Question 3

The employee is required by law to wear the PPE provided for them.

* True
* False

The correct answer is **true**

# 8 of 13 – Question 4

Identify whether the following processes require you to wear protection for your hands.

* Shampooing
* Conditioning
* Treatments
* Semi-permanent

The correct answers are **true for all**

# 9 of 13 – Question 5

Identify whether the following processes require you to wear a plastic apron as protection for your clothes and skin.

* Shampooing
* Conditioning
* Bleaching
* lightening
* perming

The correct answers are

* **Shampooing - False**
* **Conditioning - False**
* **Bleaching - True**
* **Lightening - True**
* **Perming - True**

# 10 of 13 – Question 6

What occupational health hazard is eliminated by wearing disposable gloves?

* Anaphylactic shock
* Dermatitis
* Hypersensitivity
* Asthma

The correct answer is **dermatitis**

# 11 of 13 – Question 7

Why don’t you need to wear a plastic apron for shampooing and conditioning?

* Because if the apron gets splashed, water will go on the floor
* Because your uniform provides you with protection
* Because you are wearing gloves anyway
* Because it is uncomfortable

The correct answer is b**ecause your uniform provides you with protection**

# 12 of 13 – Question 8

Why do clients have to wear a gown and towel during technical processes?

* Because it provides them with protection from spillages
* Because it provides you with protection from the client
* Because it avoids claims on the business insurance
* Because it is more comfortable and cosier
* Because it makes all the clients look the same

The correct answers are **because it provides them with protection from spillages** and **because it avoids claims on the business insurance**

# 13 of 13 – End

Well done. You have completed this session on the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992.

In this session we have covered:

* Conduct a risk assessment to identify the PPE needed
* Maintain and store the PPE properly
* Provide instructions on how to use it safely

If you are unsure or have any questions about any of these topics, make a note and speak to your tutor for more help.