



Safety Alert

PPE Work Footwear

Incident:

A worker at a mine slipped and injured his ankle. Investigation found, whilst the concrete floor surface was wet from rain, the real reason for slipping was the worn tread surface on his footwear.

Solution:

Safety footwear is one of the key items of your personal protective equipment (PPE). To ensure, you are protected at all times, take time to regularly check the following four points:

1) Steel capped boots must be of correct size & fit properly.

Associated Hazards – Incorrect fitting footwear may not provide adequate support to the foot/ankle area. This may result in the wearer suffering injury.

2) If lace up type, laces should be fully laced up with firm tension.

Associated Hazards – Steel capped boots are constructed to a standard, when tested against this standard they have their laces fully done up. In order to get adequate protection boots should be worn as they were designed to be, i.e. laces fully done up. Failure to wear / use steel capped boots as they were designed will make them less effective and may result in injury.

3) Check for any cuts / cracks in the boot, particularly around the toe of the boot. If any found, the boots should be replaced.

Associated Hazards – Most steel caps in boots are only held in place by the material used to cover them eg leather. Should this material have cuts / damage within it, it may be possible for the steel cap to move within the boot. There have been instances where people toes have been cut from the steel cap as the cuts in the leather have allowed the steel to rotate within the boot.

4) Check the tread of the boot, tread should have even wear, suitable tread remaining & be free of foreign objects.

Associated Hazards – Boots are like the tyres on your car. Boots that do not have adequate tread are more likely to slip than boots that do have adequate tread. When boots slip they can cause injuries to the person wearing the boots.

Checking the condition of Steel Capped Boots regularly promotes personal safety!

Miles Rigney –Manager Operations Support

11/11/03 Safety Alert17 Safety Boots incl disclaimer1.doc

‘Klinge Safe Tyres Produce More & Last Longer’

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