

General Information on PPE

CLASSIFICATION

According to European Directive 89/686/EEC,
PPE are divided into three categories

CATEGORY I:	minimal risk
CATEGORY II:	intermediate risk
CATEGORY III:	grave risk (lethal danger or irreversible harm to health)

DOCUMENTS

- **Instructions:** in addition to EC marking, every PPE on the market must have instructions in the smallest packaging unit
- **EC Declaration of Production Conformity:** Established by the manufacturer or by the firm marketing the product, a declaration of conformity must be available for all PPE, regardless of category (I, II and III).
- **EC Type Examination Certificate:** established by the Notified Body, It must be available for all Category II and III PPE
- **EC Quality Assurance and Guarantee System Certificate:** established by the organization that verifies the quality (may be different from the Body delivering the Type Examination Certificate). Must be available for Category III PPE
- **Product fact sheet:** written by the manufacturer or by the firm marketing the product. Although not mandatory, the RG Group can provide these documents for any product in the catalogue.

WHEN TO USE PPE

When the technical possibilities of collective protection have reached their limits, PPE is the last defense against risk.

THE COMPANY'S OBLIGATIONS

The company is required to provide their employees, free of charge, with all necessary and appropriate PPE. This equipment is chosen in collaboration with the employee Health & Safety Committee, if there is one, otherwise directly with the employees concerned. The company is also required to train users on the wearing of PPE. Furthermore, the company must ensure that PPE remain hygienic and effective. In particular, this means keeping watch on expiration dates (eg electrician's gloves and respirator filters) and carrying out required periodic verifications (eg fall-prevention devices and respirators).