

TO	ARTC Contractor & Supply Partners
FROM	Tony Murphy – General Manager Procurement & Supply
DATE	30 September 2022
SUBJECT	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

In the rail industry, the critical work we carry out in the field to maintain a reliable track asset can be extremely dangerous.

It's why No Harm is one of our core values at ARTC and why we continually strive to ensure that we're always prepared for the risks, particularly when working in the rail corridor, provisioning centre yards, inventory warehouses and on construction sites.

As part of risk mitigation measures to help keep people safe, PPE plays an important role as a last line of protection to help prevent injury – and can even save lives.

To improve safety and meet Australian rail industry standards, we're implementing a consistent approach to PPE for all ARTC employees, contractors, visitors and third parties involved in ARTC work activities, with the following now required (*key changes in bold*):

- High visibility fluorescent orange outer upper body clothing **with retro-reflective strips**
- Long pants
- Long sleeved shirt
- Steel or carbon fibre capped ankle high boots
- **Protective eye wear**
- **Hard hat with sun brim**
- **Gloves (carried and worn when required)**
- **Sunscreen (available and applied)**
- **Hearing protection (carried and worn when required)**

While many already follow the above PPE standards, we appreciate the changes may take some time for others to adjust. As such, a transition period is in place until the end of November 2022.

You can find more information in our [PPE procedure](#).

Ultimately, this is about making our workplaces safer for all people working and accessing ARTC workplaces, because everyone must be able to feel safe in order to think safe and work safe every day.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support of the above PPE requirements across the ARTC network. Should you have any queries in relation to the above, please read the following Appendix 1 - FAQs or contact your ARTC Contract Manager.

Regards,



Tony Murphy
General Manager – Procurement & Supply

APPENDIX 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When do the PPE changes come into effect?

Immediately. However, a transition period is in place until the end of November 2022 to allow PPE stock to be ordered, training and induction processes to be updated, and industry partners to be informed.

If it's hot, do I still need to wear full PPE?

Yes. If you are involved in ARTC work activities within the ARTC rail corridor, Provisioning Centre yards, Inventory warehouses and construction sites you must wear full PPE at all times. Wearing PPE in the sun helps protect your skin from sun damage.

If I'm working in a tunnel or at night, do I still need to have a sun brim on my hard hat?

No. Sun brims are not required at night, in the rain, inside buildings or within tunnels.

Do I need to wear full PPE inside an ARTC Provisioning Centre?

You need to wear PPE when working in the ARTC rail corridor, Provisioning Centre yards, Inventory warehouses and construction sites. You don't need to wear PPE if working in an office.

What if I refuse to wear correct PPE?

You will not be permitted to enter the worksite and your ARTC Contract Manager will discuss any of your concerns with you.

What if it is more hazardous to wear the PPE to carry out certain work activities?

If the minimum PPE requirements pose a hazard to the work being undertaken, please discuss with your ARTC Contract Manager immediately.

What if I have a medical condition that is affected by an item of PPE?

Speak with your leader and ARTC Contract Manager. Any exemption from wearing a particular item of PPE will be individually assessed based on medical advice, specific work duties and the risk level involved.