



LOSS CONTROL BULLETIN

Personal Protective Equipment - Occupational Foot Protection

Landscape and horticultural workers face unique challenges when it comes to footwear. Depending on the day, conditions could be wet or dry, hot or cold. Tasks performed may run from handling heavy objects to operating machines with rotating blades. In addition, the workers may be exposed to pesticides. Because of these variables, employers need to be conscious of the footwear worn by their employees to reduce injuries and lost time from work.

The OSHA Standard

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulates worker safety as it relates to footwear via OSHA Standard 1910.136A. Essentially, the regulation requires employers to make sure employees wear protective footwear when there is a danger of foot injuries due to falling, rolling or sharp objects. This does not mean the employer must provide the footwear. Note: Other state and local laws may apply. Employers should consider consulting trade associations as well as a lawyer familiar with OSHA, state and local safety regulations for additional information.

Footwear Standards

- The minimum standard for safety footwear is set forth by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
- The ANSI footwear standard is ANSI Z41-1991. All ANSI approved footwear has a protective toe and offers impact and compression protection.
- It should be noted that the amount of protection provided differs from manufacturer, so it's important to check the labeling.
- Select footwear based on a review of job tasks and identification of the potential hazards – are chemicals, crush injuries or slip & fall accidents a threat?

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Preventative Measures

Proper footwear itself is not a total solution. Training employees to perform their job in a consistently safe manner and to properly care for footwear is equally important to preventing foot injuries. Consider taking the following steps:

- Take a minute to inspect all equipment to make sure it is functioning properly and all safety guards are in place.
- Instruct employees to never put their feet near rotating blades and discharge areas.
- Inspect footwear on a regular basis. Is an employee wearing worn boots or wet footwear? Train employees on the importance of proper footwear care.
- Advise employees of the need to safely clean footwear contaminated by chemicals or pesticides.
- Through enforcement, create a culture of safety compliance that will have employees wearing protective footwear all the time.



No one wants to think about suffering a loss. In the unfortunate event you do have a loss, our **ANPAC Five Star Claim Servicesm** is designed to provide assurance and confidence to our policyholders throughout the claims process.

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