

**FSM 6700 - SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM  
CHAPTER 6710 - SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

## **6716 - PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

### **6716.03 - Policy**

Acquire, maintain, and use personal protective equipment for all recognized hazardous jobs when engineering and administrative means of eliminating the hazard are not feasible.

Employees shall report to work in appropriate dress that enables them to perform their regular duties. In most cases for fieldwork, this means long-sleeved work shirt, cuffless work trousers, and high-topped, leather, lace-up boots.

The need for personal protective equipment is determined by job conditions. Any requirement of personal protection equipment identified in an approved job hazard analysis, form FS-6700-7, or otherwise identified and approved by a line officer, shall be provided. See FSH 6709.12, section 14. Personal protective equipment for jobs identified in chapter 3 of FSH 6709.11, Health and Safety Code Handbook, does not require purchase justification. Review and replacement of safety and health items shall be done regularly.

### **6716.04 - Responsibilities**

Regional Foresters and Directors have approval authority for purchase of personal protective equipment. This may be delegated to the District Ranger and Research Project Leader level. Purchase protective equipment by submitting a requisition, with a justification statement, through normal procurement channels. A line officer's signature is required.

## **6716.1 - Requirements for Specific Items of Personal Protective Clothing and/or Equipment**

### **6716.11 - Hard Hats**

#### **6716.11a - Requirements**

Hard hats (helmets) must meet the following requirements to be acceptable for use by a Forest Service employee, unless an exception has been approved as set forth in FSM 6716.11b. Helmets meeting these requirements are available in the General Services Administration (GSA) Wildfire Protection Equipment and Supplies Catalog.

1. The helmet must meet the requirement for Class A and B helmets as specified in the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard Z89.1, 1986;
2. The helmet must be made from polycarbonate or polythalamate, with a melting point not less than 350 degrees Fahrenheit; and
3. The helmet must be yellow for Forest Service usage, for reasons of both easy visibility and standardization.

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**6716.11b - Exception to the Hard Hat Requirements**

An exception to these requirements may be requested if there are justifiable reasons to order a different color helmet or if there are applications that require a different model helmet. To request an exception, complete the following steps:

1. Coordinate with the appropriate safety and health manager in completing a Job Hazard Analysis, using Form FS-6700-7 (FSM 6716.03; FSH 6709.12, sec. 14), as a request for a variance from the hard hat requirements; and
2. Obtain the appropriate line officer's approval of the Job Hazard Analysis and forward to the appropriate procurement official.