

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

For the wine industry there are two main sections of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) that apply. 296-307 for Agriculture and 296-800 for General Industry. Most wineries fall under General Industry so that is the focus of this outline.

Definition: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used for protection from the hazards identified in your workplace and refers to protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury. The purpose of personal protective equipment is to reduce employee exposure to hazards when engineering and/or administrative controls are not feasible or effective to reduce these risks to acceptable levels. Any item of PPE imposes a barrier between the wearer/user and the working environment.

Examples within a Winery: Sulfur applications (to crushed grapes or sulfuring barrels), exposure to carbon dioxide, pesticides, velcorin, ammonia, caustic cleaners, or procedures that use materials with airborne contaminants (i.e., diatomaceous earth).

Regulatory Summary (with emphasis on application for wineries covered under general industry):

1. It is the responsibility of all employers to identify and reduce workplace hazards and risks. Hazards and risks can be reduced by finding alternate ways to perform a task, apply engineering controls to reduce or eliminate hazards, and by reducing the use of hazardous materials at your winery.
2. Processes that may pose a hazard to your employees must be assessed to determine the required personal protective equipment (PPE). Additionally, SDS sheets (formerly called MSDS) will indicate required PPE. WAC 206-800-160 addresses the requirements of employers to ensure that their employees have, use and care for the appropriate PPE.
3. Wineries must address their winery-specific PPE requirements in their written Accident Prevention Program (APP). Hazard assessments must be documented and should be kept in your APP binder. This project has developed a winery Job Hazard Assessment (JHA) form to help you perform this task (see below for link.)
4. Possible winery processes that may require a job hazard assessment (JHA) and subsequent PPE include but are not limited to:
 - Using diatomaceous earth or other airborne contaminants (i.e., fermentation additives), SO₂ as a gas or liquid, concentrated acids, ammonia, ozone (respiratory protection per WAC 296-842)
 - Bottle line operations or use of power sprayers (hearing loss prevention WAC 296-817-500)
 - Laboratory operations
 - Filling propane tanks or battery charging/changing stations
 - Cleaning tanks and equipment – many cleaning agents, either concentrated or dilute, require PPE. Be sure to select the proper PPE for the specific chemical you are using – your chemical vendors can provide information on selecting appropriate PPE.
 - Maintenance work (i.e., exposure to battery acid)

- Working in temperature extremes, either hot or cold, and PPE required for temperature stress hazards
5. Additional information on hazard assessments and PPE requirements is provided on the following topics, all of which can be found at www.winerywise.org under the tab for *Winery Safety*:
- **Winery Job Hazard Assessment Form** ([link to Shaila's form](#))
 - **WAC 206-800-160, Safety and Health Rules Regarding PPE**
<http://www.lni.wa.gov/WISHA/Rules/corerules/PDFs/296-800-160.pdf>
 - **WAC 296-842, Respiratory Protection Requirements**
<http://www.lni.wa.gov/wisha/rules/respirators/default.htm>
 - **WAC 296-817 Hearing Loss Prevention Rules**
<http://www.lni.wa.gov/wisha/rules/noise/default.htm>
 - **Additional information on winery processes and associated hazards that may require PPE can be found at** <http://depts.washington.edu/wineryhs/Process.html>