

## **Policy on the Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the GOOW Shop**

Machines used in woodworking are dangerous, particularly when used improperly or without proper safeguards. Workers operating woodworking equipment suffer the following common injuries: laceration, amputation, severed fingers, and blindness. Wood dust and the chemicals used in finishing are health hazards, and workers in this industry can suffer from skin and respiratory diseases.

*The shop user has primary responsibility for their personal safety.* The shop user is required to be knowledgeable in the equipment used, follow shop guidance, assess risks of each operation, **wear personal protective equipment**, and maintain an orderly workplace. When the Shop Attendant determines the air quality in the Shop needs added respiratory protection, users can choose to comply or leave the Shop environment.

70% of amateur woodworkers were NOT wearing appropriate PPE at the time of their accident. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25043313>

The term "personal protective equipment" refers to any device or garment worn to safeguard against injuries and/or the harmful effects of hazardous substances. A wide variety of effective PPE can be readily obtained to protect members' eyes, hearing, respiratory tracts, and body parts (head, feet, hands, and arms).

**REQUIRED PPE:** The following will be mandatory for members working in the GOOW Machine Shop.

1. Users are required to wear Personal Protective Equipment for eye and hearing protection when in the shop machine room when any equipment is operating.

**Eye Protection:** Required eye protection will need to have a Z87 marking in the lens and be Impact Rated with the manufacturer's marking followed by a "+" sign. The safety glasses must have side protection to prevent injury from flying objects. Shop Users who wear prescription lenses while engaged in machine operation shall use prescription safety lenses that have the Z87 marking in the upper/outer corner of the lens and provides side protection OR wears ANSI Z87 eye protection goggles or safety glasses meant to be worn over the prescription lenses without disturbing the proper position of both lenses.

**Hearing Protection:** Users should choose a type that is reasonably comfortable to wear. It includes muffs, plugs, canal covers and custom plugs (contrary to what some believe, noise cancellation is not hearing protection unless it comes with NRR -noise reduction rating). The NRR does NOT indicate an equal reduction in decibels. There is a formula that must be

used. Subtract 7, then divide the result in half. Example, an NRR of 30 ( $30 - 7 = 23$ , divided by 2 = 11.5). The actual reduction if worn properly is 11.5 decibels.

“Doubling up” – muffs over plugs, provides added protection and is good in louder environments, but is misleading. It does not double the protective rating, but does add about 4 decibels of protection.

**Jewelry:** Jewelry will be removed. In this case, jewelry is anything that could pose a risk of producing injury in the shop environment. The most common examples are watches, rings, necklaces and bracelets.

Approved wording about rings from the Board: **De-gloving accidents are serious and debilitating. GOOW highly recommends removal of all finger rings while in the machine room, however this is a matter of personal responsibility.**

While ring avulsion (peeling off soft tissue from the bone) accounts for 150,000 accidents annually, avoiding this problem is a personal choice. If you choose to wear a ring, you are taking on all liability that might be associated with an accident involving a ring.

- 3. Clothing:**—Wear clothes that match the environment you will be working in.
- Tuck loose clothing in; confine dangling strings.
  - Hair long enough to obscure the eyes is confined;
  - Sturdy shoes, (no open toe, sandals or high heels).
  - No shirt, no shoes, no access.

**RECOMMENDED PPE:** It is strongly recommended that members “**Use respiratory protection when conditions warrant.**” Lung damage is a long term hazard.”. The Shop Attendant has the authority to determine that conditions are sufficiently dangerous regarding dust exposure that breathing protection becomes mandatory until the danger is sufficiently reduced.

**Respiratory Protection:** Typical respiratory protection PPE are disposable dust masks and reusable dust masks with filters. The mask one chooses should be comfortable, breathable, fit correctly, and have approval of the NIOSH, National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health. Proper care and storage of the masks is necessary for its continued effectiveness.

Different exposures require different types of protection. Respirators offer little to no protection when there is facial hair, even one day's growth under the sealing edge.

**While this Guild policy addresses the minimum Personal Protection equipment; these recommendations are not sufficient for all situations found in the Shop or with some woodworking practices.**

**It is the user's responsibility to recognize an increased hazard and add approved safety equipment as appropriate.**

Explore safety equipment links:

Safety glasses

<https://safetygearpro.com/product-category/prescription-eyeglasses/ansi-prescription-safety-glasses/>

<https://www.galeton.com/personal-safety/safety-glasses/>

<https://www.grainger.com/category/safety/eye-protection-and-accessories/safety-glasses?attrs=Standards%7CANSI+Z87.1&filters=attrs>

Bi-focals

[https://store.usps.com/store/results/stamps/\\_/N-9y93lv](https://store.usps.com/store/results/stamps/_/N-9y93lv)

Over glasses

<https://www.safetyglassesusa.com/fiovrzgl.html>

Understanding the Z87.1 standard

<https://blog.safetyglassesusa.com/what-does-ansi-z87-1-2010-certified-mean/>

Respiratory protection

<https://safetygearpro.com/product-category/work-safety/respiratory-protection/>

Hearing protection

<https://www.mallory.com/207203/category/safety/personal-protective-equipment-ppe/hearing-protection>

Custom hearing protection

<https://allearsprotected.com/>

Portland safety store, 1101 SE 3rd Av.

<https://www.mallory.com/safety>