

APRIL *Safety Talk*

Topic: Safety Footwear

The right footwear can help protect you from slipping, crushing, punctures, electrical shock and static charges. Properly laced boots may protect you from twisting your ankle in uneven working conditions. Steel toe rubber boots can protect your toes as well as keep you out of muck and mud.

The risk assessment performed for your job will indicate the hazards you may encounter, and should assist in the selection of this form of Personal Protective Equipment.

If your job poses a hazard to your feet, make sure you purchase CSA-certified protective footwear, with the proper rating for the hazard and the proper sole for working conditions.

Steel toes are either Grade 1 (the best) or Grade 2, depending on the impact they withstand. The steel toe is tested by dropping a weight from above, and crushing from the side, and measuring the resulting damage to the steel.

CSA Green Triangle label means the footwear provides sole puncture protection with a Grade 1 protective toe. Recommended for any job where sharp objects are present.



Yellow Triangle label means sole puncture protection and Grade 2 protective toe. Recommended for light industrial work environments that need both puncture and toe protection.



White Label with Green Tree

label indicates chainsaw protective footwear, recommended for forestry workers and others exposed to hand-held chainsaws and other cutting tools.



White Rectangle with Orange

Omega Symbol label means the footwear provides resistance to electric shock. Recommended for any position where accidental contact with live electrical current conductors can occur.



Yellow Rectangle with Green

SD and Grounding Symbol indicates footwear that is capable of dissipating an electrostatic charge in a controlled manner.



Used in any industrial environment where a static discharge can be a hazard for workers or equipment.

Red Rectangle with Black

Letter "C" and Grounding Symbol indicates footwear has soles that are electrically conductive, for any work environment where low-power electrical charges can be hazardous for workers or equipment.



Blue Rectangle indicates Grade 1 protective toe with no protective sole, for work with no puncture hazards.



Grey Rectangle indicates Grade 2 protective toe with no protective sole, for institutional and non-industrial work requiring toe, but not sole, protection.



OTHER MARKINGS

Position:	1	2	3	4	5
Mark:	1	P	M	E	X

Protective footwear is also required to have an "internal protection code" permanently marked on the inside or outside of at least one shoe/boot.

Position 1: level of toe protection

Position 2: P for puncture resistant; 0 if not

Position 3: M for metatarsal protection, 0 if not

Position 4: type of electrical protection: E if shock resistant; S if static dissipative; C if conductive; 0 if no protection

Position 5: chainsaw protection X if yes, 0 if not

Use metatarsal protection to protect the top of the foot, if not only your toes could be crushed.