

<b>TITLE: SELECTION AND USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)</b>	
<b>Guideline Number: LS1464</b>	<b>Issue Date: 3 /October / 2007</b>
<b>Issue Status: 1.0</b>	

**PURPOSE:**

To identify the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to be used by lifeguards when there is an identified need, and to ensure that the equipment is of the appropriate type, is fit for task, and that personnel are trained in its use.

**SCOPE:**

This Guideline applies to the following:

- All government authorities and agencies and those organisations responsible for the management and operation of coastal environments; and
- Those organisations experienced in public safety and responsible for the provision of public safety services.

For example:

- Coastal/marine park authorities and managers
- Lifesaving service providers
- Lifeguards and lifeguard supervisors

This Guideline applies to coastal environments, including ocean coastline and saltwater waterways that open to the oceans surrounding Australia.

This Guideline covers the selection, introduction, maintenance, training and use of PPE.

**GUIDELINE DESCRIPTION:**

**1.0 Selection and purchasing of PPE**

1.1 The selection and purchasing of PPE shall take into consideration:

- a. the specific circumstances of various locations and tasks;
- b. any legislative requirements;
- c. relevant Australian Standards;
- d. manufacturer's recommendations; and
- e. any special requirements of the end user.

1.2 Lifeguard PPE should include:

- a. Personal
  - i. Uniform
  - ii. Sunglasses
  - iii. Footwear such as reef shoes
  - iv. Personnel response kit (bum bag)
    - Pocket mask
    - Protective rubber/latex gloves
- b. General
  - i. Gloves
  - ii. Tongs
  - iii. Equipment lifting and transport devices

## **2.0 Introduction of PPE**

The introduction of any PPE should include prior consultation with the personnel who would be required to use it, and pilot trials (if required). In addition to effectiveness, consideration should also be given to ease of use and comfort.

## **3.0 Maintenance of PPE**

3.1 PPE should be regularly inspected and tested, and, if required, repaired or replaced. Records of the inspections should be kept. Personnel should not use PPE which is not in good working order.

3.2 PPE should be stored in such a way as to prevent damage or deterioration and ensure it is in good working order and ready for use.

## **4.0 Training in the use of PPE**

All personnel should be given training in the correct use of PPE and in the identification of faults.

## **5.0 Use of PPE**

Personnel are required to use PPE with which they have been provided in an appropriate manner at all times.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Lifeguard** means 'an appropriately trained and qualified individual who volunteers or is employed at bathing beaches, pools, etc. to prevent drowning, provide injury prevention and response services, and to save people from drowning'.

**Lifesaving service** means 'an organised and structured service comprised of lifeguards and appropriate rescue and first aid equipment supported by a coordinated backup team'.

**Occupational health and safety (OHS)** means 'the health and safety considerations of or relating to the activity or business for which one is trained'.

**PPE** – personal protective equipment

### **REFERENCES:**

Australian Coastal Public Safety Guidelines

- LS1460: Occupational health and safety policy
- LS1461: Lifeguard occupational health and safety
- LS1462: Zero tolerance on alcohol and drugs
- LS1463: Sun safe practices
- LS1465: Hazards and banning of smoking
- LS1466: Manual handling safety
- LS1467: Managing workplace stress
- LS1468: Rehabilitation from illness or injury

Guidelines for safe recreational water environments. Volume 1 – Coastal and fresh waters. World Health Organization, Geneva, 2003.

Lifeguard Service Operating Procedures Version 1, Surf Life Saving Queensland, February 2005.

Safety management – developing a safety policy – Bulletin WH14.01.03, NT WorkSafe, Northern Territory Department of Employment education and Training, 2003, 4pp

Surf Life Saving Australia, 2003. Surf lifesaving training manual, 32nd edition. Elsevier Australia Pty Ltd.

**APPENDICES:**

Nil