

Best Practices for Safety Protocols for the Welding Process in a Collision Facility

OSHA states “Many Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards require employers to provide personal protective equipment, when it is necessary to protect employees from job-related injuries, illnesses, and fatalities. With few exceptions, OSHA requires employers to pay for personal protective equipment when it is used to comply with OSHA standards. These typically include: hard hats, gloves, goggles, safety shoes, safety glasses, welding helmets and goggles, face shields, protective equipment and fall protection equipment”.

OSHA's welding, cutting, and brazing standard, 29 C.F.R. §1910.252(b)(3), outlines specific PPE requirements for welders. This provision states that employees exposed to the hazards created by welding, cutting, or brazing operations must be protected by PPE in accordance with the requirements of the general personal protective equipment standard, §1910.132

- **Employers Must Pay for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).**
- **The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 place duties on employees to take reasonable steps to ensure that the PPE provided is properly used. ... Employees must take reasonable care of any PPE provided to them and not carry out any maintenance unless trained and authorized.**

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Gloves---See Best Practices for Welding Gloves

Jackets



Flame Resistant Cotton



Full Leather



Hybrid



Miller Weld X-Protection

- **Welders are exposed to fumes, heat, and sparks; therefore, a welding jacket of Leather, but lightweight is essential as all-over protection.**
- **A welding jacket is considered PPE.**

Respirators



- **OSHA Regulations requires an annual respiratory fit test.**
- **Welding fumes are a particulate.**
- **P100 filter is required.**
- **Cartridge should be changed after 30 hours of use or every 6 months of limited use.**
- **Welding Respirator is considered PPE.**

Welding Helmets



I was conducting an I-CAR steel MIG certification test and the technician could not give me an 8 MM plug weld that would pass a destructive test (Note-- miss in the weld and lack of penetration using the Harbor Freight Helmet). First, the outer plastic covering was toast and second, the cheap helmet was not turning dark fast enough to be able to see where to strike an arc. I gave him one of my helmets, with a magnifier and look at his first weld with it. What a difference a quality piece of equipment makes.

What to look for when purchasing a welding helmet. I am partial to Miller





Magnifier Lens

Magnifier Bracket for Lens

welding helmets (one failed in 18 years of use and was replaced under warranty) because they reasonably priced for a quality product. The front screens are readily available and very easy to change. All Miller Helmets come with brackets that hold a magnifier lens. The Miller Elite has 4 sensors and the Professional has 3 sensors. I feel that the Professional Model is ideal for a body shop technician.



Sensors

Shade 10 is recommended for MIG welding in a body shop environment. The last item that is part of PPE is a welding screen.



A welding screen protects surrounding employees from sparks and ultra violet rays. Also it protects surrounding vehicles from hot sparks and slag. Next, it acts as a wind barrier (keeps the shield gas from being scattered from the welding site). Finally OSHA regulation 1926.351(e) Shielding-- Whenever practicable, all arc welding and cutting operations shall be shielded by noncombustible or flameproof screens which will protect employees and other persons working in the vicinity from the direct rays of the arc