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Foot Protection – Watch Your Step

Foot Protection and the Ready Mixed Concrete Industry

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) foot protection is required when an employee is "working in areas where there is a danger of foot injuries due to falling or rolling objects, or objects piercing the sole, or when the use of protective footwear will protect the affected employee from an electrical hazard." Ready mixed concrete plants can hold a number of these hazards that can cause foot injuries, including falling objects, moving equipment and vehicles, and materials that can cut and impale appendages. These hazards necessitate ready mixed concrete operators establish a personal protective equipment (PPE) program, with specifics for foot protection.



What to Know About Foot Protection

When required, foot protection must comply with either the ASTM F-2412-2005 or the ANSI Z41-1999 consensus standards. These standards set the minimum requirements for protective footwear in order to guard against specific types of hazards. At a minimum, foot protection should protect against falling objects, crushing, and penetrating incidents. Depending on the environment and hazards, foot protection may also need to incorporate hard-toe requirements, specific material or laces, ankle height, heat- or chemical-resistant soles, electrically non-conductive soles, and/or metal insoles to protect against puncture wounds. As well, concrete plants can be wet, muddy, icy, snowy, and overall slippery, and thus any required foot protection should consider a plant's or construction site's walking, working surfaces to prevent foot injuries and slips, trips, and falls.

Foot Protection Do's and Don'ts

- Think first, know the foot injury hazards at the concrete plant or jobsite
- Conduct a hazard assessment of the plant to determine where foot protection is needed and what type (examples include steel toes or spikes for icy conditions)
- Remove or reduce foot hazards where possible and ensure necessary foot protection is utilized
- Require employees to use foot protection when necessary
- Laces should be in good condition and tied
- Keep foot protection in good condition and replace when damaged
- Train employees on types of foot protection, usage, storage, inspection, cleaning, and replacement



Resources

NRMCA: [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Program](#)

OSHA: [PPE Factsheet](#), [PPE Guide](#), [PPE Resources](#)

Contacts

Gary Mullings: gmullings@nrmca.org

Kevin Walgenbach: kwalgenbach@nrmca.org

