



Construction and the Built Environment – Unit 3

3.9 Working practices that promote health and safety

CLEANLINESS

It is the responsibility of everyone involved in construction tasks to ensure that they follow procedures that promote their own health and safety, and that of others.

The following list of safety considerations can be used as a checklist to help create a clean and safe working environment:

Consideration	Potential harm	Control measure
Level of lighting	Accidents occurring due to poorly lit work locations	Follow HSE guidelines for lighting at work
Ventilation of work areas	Breathing discomfort caused by dust or chemical fumes	Extraction systems or working outdoors
Tidiness of work areas	Clutter can cause slips, trips and falls	Tidying up and removing waste as it is created
Material storage	Materials falling on workers or being a trip hazard	Materials should always be stored neatly
Adequate working space	Working in a confined space can cause injuries	Allow sufficient space to work safely
Condition of floor surface	Dust and wet floor surfaces can lead to slips, trips and falls	Safety footwear, clearing spillages, 'anti-slip' flooring
Tool/ machinery maintenance	Blunt hand tools or malfunctioning machinery can lead to injuries	Regular servicing and planned maintenance
Trailing cables	Slips, trip hazards and falls	Cordless tools, cable trays
Noise levels	Hearing damage, poor communication	Ear defenders, ear plugs
First aid facilities	Delay in the injured person receiving treatment	Clear signage, qualified first aiders

CORRECT PPE

Appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment) should be selected as part of the planning process and worn prior to starting, and during, construction tasks. All parts of the human body can be vulnerable to injury and disease unless protected by suitable safety equipment.

The following list includes the most common types of PPE that should be used when working on the trade option tasks for the Unit 3 controlled assessment:

Respiratory protection		
Dust masks		
Eye protection		
Safety glasses, goggles		
Safety visors, shields		
Welding masks, visors, goggles		
Hearing protection		
Ear defenders, ear plugs		
Hand protection		
Gloves, gauntlets, barrier cream		
Foot protection		
Steel toe cap footwear		
Head protection		
Hard hats, bump caps		
Visibility protection / General body protection		
High-visibility vests		