

## **Personal Protective Equipment for EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Standard**

The following summary should help with determining the need for personal protective equipment.

The requirement for worker protection mostly falls with OSHA. See page 8-10 in your books for details

- I. **Gloves** - Gloves are not required by the RRP. They can help reduce the chances of ingestion of dust containing lead while drinking, eating, smoking and other hand-to-mouth actions. There are jobs where you can't wear gloves and in these cases EPA would not expect the worker to use gloves. On jobs where gloves are not used, hand washing before drinking, eating, smoking, etc is the best solution.
  
- II. **Shoe Covers** – Use shoe covers any time there is plastic sheeting on the floor.
  
- III. **Painter's Hat** – This is not generally considered personal protective equipment by OSHA, but does have value during work that generates dust or paint chips. In general terms a painter's hat should be worn when there is:
  - a. Overhead work (ceilings, crown molding, window casings, etc) occurs
  - b. Work that generates airborne dust or paint chips, such as:
    - i. Demolition
    - ii. Scraping
    - iii. Removal of building components (such as clapboards, windows and window trim, painted wood floors, interior trim, plaster and lathe, etc). that create airborne dust
  
- IV. **Eye Protection** - Eye protection, such as safety glasses or goggles, is required when flying particles (chips) are likely to occur. This could happen during demolition, drilling, hammering, chipping, cutting, prying off trim (molding, baseboards, window casing, door casing). This is basically the OSHA view.
  
- V. **Respiratory Protection** – Page 8-10 in the book states "...employers should consider respiratory protection..." The terms "should" and "consider" are rather weak. In addition, there is nothing in the federal law (Appendix 1) in the books that requires the use of respirators. Therefore, the requirement for respiratory protection falls to the OSHA standard, which is based on air sampling. Some projects clearly