

Out with the old, in with the new: BSIF urges businesses to review PPE stock for the year ahead

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The [British Safety Industry Federation \(BSIF\)](#) is urging buyers and wearers of PPE to review their PPE stock and replace old and damaged items after a member survey showed outdated and poorly maintained personal protective equipment (PPE) is in use across UK workplaces.

The survey of BSIF members, made up of manufacturers and distributors of PPE who frequently visit workplaces across the UK, highlighted the prevalence of substandard products in use in Britain's workplaces. The findings emphasise the urgent need for employers and workers to prioritise PPE evaluation and renewal as they prepare for the year ahead.

The survey highlights a worrying trend in the state of PPE and safety equipment across industries. Examples include:

- Hi-Vis not so visible: Many workers are using high-visibility clothing that is so dirty or worn that it no longer meets safety standards or functions as intended
- Damaged helmets: Safety helmets with severe wear and tear are said to be a common sight in UK workplaces
- Ripped clothing: Poorly maintained and ripped clothing are in regular use
- Defunct respiratory protection: Members frequently came across examples of disposable respiratory protection that should have been replaced still in use

Other insights from the survey:

- Cost over compliance: Respondents noted that buyers often prioritise cost over fit and performance, leading to the use of non-compliant products that compromise safety.
- Misuse and poor fit: Issues like workers wearing PPE incorrectly—such as helmets dangling loosely or gloves not being secured properly—pose significant risks to their effectiveness.

Commenting on the findings of the survey, BSIF CEO Alan Murray, says: “It’s not enough for PPE to simply meet basic standards—it must be maintained and fit for purpose at all times to ensure worker safety. As one of the survey respondents highlighted the misconception that ‘any PPE is good enough’ is a dangerous mindset that leads to preventable injuries.”

As 2025 gets underway, the BSIF is calling on organisations to make a New Year’s resolution to thoroughly review and refresh their PPE stock. Employers and safety professionals are urged to ensure their equipment is compliant, well-maintained, and fit for purpose. Only source PPE from responsible suppliers such as BSIF Registered Safety Supplier who are committed to selling only certified PPE and safety products that perform to claims made.

The BSIF will release its latest findings around non-compliant PPE and safety equipment at the beginning of February 2025. The federation will also be turning up the focus on the essential role of PPE in 2025 with their PPE Saves Lives campaign to launch in the spring.

For more information on how to improve PPE safety standards in your workplace, visit: www.bsif.co.uk