

<b>Safety Bulletin No.</b>	<b>2019 16</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Airside PPE clarification advice</b>		
<b>Area of Concern</b>	Inappropriate footwear		
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## Introduction

Recently there has been a couple of events that have prompted a clarification of the Airside PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) Policy. These events involved airside personnel wearing inappropriate footwear in the form of stiletto heels on the airside tarmac and a check-in operator suffering a serious leg injury when her weight shifted whilst wearing high heeled shoes in the terminal.



## Risk assessment

The footwear clause of the Airside PPE Policy (refer below) was put in place due to the risk of injury when working airside due to trip hazards, uneven or slippery ground and for working around vehicles and machinery.

- Solid sturdy footwear that is closed-in by design is the minimum requirement, however if the work activity has a risk of foot injury then consideration should be given to steel capped footwear in accordance with AS/NZS 2210.3 based on the risk assessment for the activity.

Due to the above risks and the additional risk from instability of high heeled footwear (particularly stiletto heels), the above clause has been changed to include the restriction of wearing high heeled shoes in the airside work environment.

## Changes to Airside PPE Policy

The general description of closed-in, sturdy footwear has been changed to specifically preclude the wearing of high heeled (stiletto) shoes when working airside. Refer attached Policy.

Updated 10 December 2019

### Preamble

Northern Territory Airports (NTA) considers the safety of staff, contractors, tenants and any other personnel affected by work activities on airport to be of paramount importance and to achieve this end has a mandatory requirement for minimum personal protective equipment (PPE) when working airside.

Broadly, this PPE consists of high visibility shirt, vest or safety strap vest; hearing protection; and closed-in, sturdy footwear.

This list is not an exhaustive list of PPE for personnel working airside as a risk assessment must be undertaken for all high risk work activities and appropriate PPE will be worn as required over and above the requirements of this policy.

### Scope

This policy applies equally to all personnel working airside

- NTA personnel.
- Contractors and airport tenants
- Pilots, airline staff and technical crew.
- Personnel escorting passengers to an aircraft.
- Airside drivers and passengers in open-topped vehicles.

### Exemptions

- Staff walking to and from airside work areas via designated walkways.
- Passengers moving between aircraft and terminal under escort.
- Drivers and passengers in enclosed vehicles that are not required to get out of their vehicle while airside.
- Pilots wearing white shirts directly accessing aircraft within leased areas (as shown in green on the attached map) of the general aviation (GA) areas during daylight hours with good visibility. Must not cross aircraft manoeuvring areas / active taxiways. High visibility clothing applies outside of these conditions.

### Technical specifications for minimum PPE

- High visibility clothing and reflective strips are required as per AS/NZS 1906.4 and AS/NZS 4602.1 in Day, Night or Day/Night classification. Persons working at night or in poorly lit conditions must wear Night or Day/Night classification.
- Hearing protection as per AS/NZS 1270 up to Class 5 must be carried at all times when working airside and utilised when working in a high noise condition.
- Solid sturdy footwear that is closed in by design is the minimum requirement, however if the work activity has a risk of foot injury then consideration should be given to steel capped footwear in accordance with AS/NZS 2210.3 based on the risk assessment for the activity.  
(**Note:** High heeled shoes (stiletto heels) do not meet the "sturdy" requirements of this policy)

To ensure that we provide a safe airport all airport users are advised that this procedure is a minimum condition of use when working on any NTA sites. I encourage all users to comply with this policy and advise failure to do so may result in cessation of work activities.

**THINK SAFELY, ACT SAFELY**



Map of GA leased area – exemptions for pilots wearing white shirts

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Work Health & Safety

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019