

Choosing the Best Industrial Facial PPE Supplier

5 Key Factors





On many job sites, PPE is critical in ensuring the safety of personnel and is also required by many regulatory bodies. However, many PPE providers don't provide adequate options for face and eye protection. Eyes are especially vulnerable to smoke, chemicals, debris, sparks, and countless other hazards.

Paulson is an industry leader in PPE production, most notably face and eye protection. Our face and eye PPE helps professionals get the job done while remaining protected. We have a wide range of safety solutions for a multitude of industrial applications, including chemical splash, molten metal, high impact, high-heat, and gas cutting and welding.

The following factors are important to consider when choosing a PPE supplier.

Factor 1

A Variety of Products-Including Those You Need

The ideal PPE supplier will have a wide selection of products to choose from in their specialty. You may not be able to source all of your PPE from a single provider; however, if you need face and eye protection, for example, a provider that offers an extensive product line of various face and eye PPE can become an excellent resource for your business. Of course, a large catalog doesn't necessarily mean that you've found the right supplier. It is worth verifying that they offer the category, size, and level of protection you require.



If the supplier has a product but not the correct size options, it is worth reaching out to their customer support team. Good suppliers will be able to offer customized solutions for your workforce. This will also give you a chance to test their quality of customer care. As PPE is a critical component of safety and regulatory compliance, it is important to work with a supplier that will respond to your inquiries promptly.

Factor 2

Reliable and Quick Delivery

No matter how extensive the catalog and quality of customer service, none of that matters if the PPE can't be delivered within a reasonable timeframe. Certain things need to be considered when assessing the logistical capabilities of a PPE supplier:

How quickly can they turn around orders?

Is tracking information provided?

What is their protocol for delayed or undelivered orders?

These are all questions worth asking when you're evaluating a potential new PPE supplier. PPE shortages can lead to very tough decisions for managers. Should production be halted until the PPE arrives, or should you find an emergency supplier to fill the shortage? This dilemma is best avoided when you work with a supplier who can fill orders in a reliable timeframe. The right PPE supplier should be consistent in their delivery times. While it is impossible to bring the chance of a shortage risk to 0%, your PPE supplier must have a plan for instances of shortages.

Factor 3

Ensure High-Quality

For PPE to function properly, it needs to meet high-quality standards. This includes a certain level of comfort for workers and increased durability for prolonged use. If the PPE is too uncomfortable, fits poorly, or is easily damaged workers may be inclined to not wear their PPE.

Over the years, PPE has evolved to be better designed for specific scenarios through the use of higher-quality materials. The era of "one size fits all" is coming to a close. This includes industrial PPE. For example, specially designed additives and coatings may be applied to face shields and lenses to better protect workers from certain hazards.

This may include extra protection for:



Chemical
Splash



Energy
Discharge



Plasma



Molten
Metal



High
Impact



Extreme
Heat



Arc
Flash



Vaporizing
Environments

Severe industrial occupational hazards, such as extreme radiant heat and chemical splash, demand PPE solutions designed to withstand the rigors of that application. High-quality PPE allows workers to do their jobs efficiently and safely without being burdened by the discomfort or poor performance of low-quality PPE.

Factor 4

Do They Meet National & International Safety Standards?

For PPE to be fully compliant, it needs to meet the national safety standards of the country in which it is being used. In the United States, OSHA mandates that many forms of industrial PPE be compliant with regulations established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Our line of industrial-grade PPE is specifically designed to meet the rules and standards established by ANSI. This includes face and eye protection, which are subject to Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection Devices, ANSI Z87.1. Our face and eye protection are further customized to specific workplace hazards, such as extreme temperatures, chemical risks, and high-impact risks.



At a minimum, ANSI Z87.1 ensures that professional protective eye equipment is effective against certain risks. This includes liquid splash, high impacts, dust, particles, and other common job site dangers. ANSI Z87.1 also mandates intensive testing. Specifically, these tests look for flammability, corrosion, and chemical exposure. High impact resistance includes testing for both frames and lenses.

To check that regulatory compliance has been achieved, you can look for the stamp or mark of a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). There are several NRTLs in operation. It is recommended to never buy products that don't have the mark of an NRTL. A current list of active NRTLs can be found on OSHA's website.



Factor 5

Reshoring with a Made-in-the-USA Manufacturer

The COVID-19 pandemic and its economic aftershocks exposed the public to the risks of offshoring. While offshoring allows for cheaper products and higher profits, the practice is incredibly vulnerable to supply shortages. This was felt, and continues to be felt, by nearly every industry. This includes the PPE industry to a large degree.

As PPE is critical for safety and regulatory compliance, it is important to partner with a supplier that relies on domestic supply chains. This has led to a new strategy in PPE manufacturing known as “reshoring.” Many suppliers are moving overseas production back into the United States to avoid unreliable supply chains.

Reshoring has more benefits than just supply chain security. Shipping products across any ocean tends to carry a significant carbon footprint. As more Americans seek climate-conscious businesses, reshoring is an excellent way to reduce carbon emissions. Other benefits of reshoring include easier quality control maintenance, simpler logistics, having a higher-skilled workforce, and avoiding complex taxes and tariffs.

Work With an Industry Leader in Paulson

The team at Paulson Manufacturing is capable of delivering PPE to customers around the world. All of our products carry the necessary certifications to meet U.S. and international standards.

We are a single-source provider. Virtually all prototyping, machining, injection molding, coatings, toolings, and R&D are done in-house. This has allowed us to remain protected from supply chain stresses.

Paulson Manufacturing is the global leader when it comes to transparent face and eye protection for industrial workers and first responders. Our mission is to make the best safety products for our customers. We have been in the PPE business for over 75 years, and our track record speaks for itself. We can provide safety solutions for industrial, medical, arc flash safety, tactical, and fire and rescue industries.

To learn more about how we can serve your business, [contact us](#) today.



A grayscale photograph of an industrial facility, likely a refinery or chemical plant. The image shows a complex network of metal structures, including a large cylindrical storage tank on the right, a series of interconnected pipes and walkways in the center, and more piping and structural elements in the foreground. The sky is overcast and gray.

About Us

Paulson Manufacturing Corp. is the world's foremost authority on transparent face and eye protection for industrial workers and first responders. Our mission is to provide the benefits of protection and safety to our customers — our business' lifeline. We attain this mission by manufacturing the highest quality and most reliable safety protective gear in the industry. We seek our customers' trust, reliance, and confidence. We want to be their first choice for the all-important task of protecting eyes and lives.

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