

Choosing an Optimal Arc Flash PPE Supplier

6 Key Factors





Introduction

Hazardous exposures threaten skilled professionals daily. Manufacturing, gas and oil, petrochemical processing, power and energy, and countless other industrial workplaces must focus on health and safety first and foremost: without a safe, effective workforce, their operations will collapse.

PPE, or personal protective equipment, is the final line of defense between a worker and a potential hazard. While safety protocol begins with thorough training, rigorous maintenance, and a well-designed operational program, PPE creates a critical layer of protection in the face of danger.

PPE is nearly as varied as the elements it confronts: personal equipment includes everything from goggles and hard hats to fire-resistant clothing. In building your PPE kit, be sure to carefully evaluate your supplier's catalog, compliances, and services to find the perfect fit.

1 NFPA 70E Compliance cannot be compromised

What compliances direct your supplier's work?

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is a global nonprofit organization, established in 1896, devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The standard for electrical safety in the workplace is NFPA 70E.

The responsibility of a company to uphold a culture of safety is part of a broad culture of well-being: a dedication to worker health and happiness including systems, policies, practices, and respect for both personal safety and the safety of others.



True compliance with NFPA 70E requires both management commitment and employee involvement, including dedicated use of designated policies and equipment. It is essential to partner with a manufacturer who develops PPE and related tools in accordance with the set regulations, giving your team every opportunity to succeed.

2

Domestic PPE production and testing leads the field in quality and performance

It's ideal to work with a domestic company in building out a PPE kit. U.S. domestic production and testing intentionally align with industry specifications, and American materials are known to be leaders in quality and engineering.

When assessing your supplier, consider the following questions:

What kinds of testing facilities does your supplier employ?

What quality assurances do they offer?

What do they know about your particular environment and its unique hazards?

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3

Short lead times & flexible operations make for successful delivery

Shorter lead time is always a good thing, especially when you're waiting to put a product into action. Will your facility's needs conflict with long production times from a PPE manufacturer, or will they be willing to go the extra mile for your business?

Always choose a safety professional who will – and can – treat your project with the care and expertise of a world class manufacturer. A manufacturer who can nimbly accommodate your needs and reflect process competency from start to finish.

Lead times are the sum of many moving parts, and a smooth operation manages every step of your project carefully. From planning and design to procurement and quality control, right down to final packing and delivery, a quality manufacturer orchestrates the entire process for the utmost efficiency.

4

Innovative engineering backs better products

The personal protective equipment to meet your environment's needs may not be standard issue — and that's okay. Working with an optimal manufacturer means that the expertise and engineering savvy to create an exact fit for your requirements is readily available.



Assess whether your manufacturer is a proven leader by examining their recent designs for other clients across the industry; do they offer custom solutions for specific industry needs? And if so, are they innovative and up-to-date? High performance PPE begins with quality engineering, whether the product is crafted to client needs or straight off the shelf.

5

Exceptional performance goes beyond compliance

Complying with NFPA and OSHA regulations is mandatory to good business practice, effective operating procedures, and employee safety. Exceptional PPE design does not limit its performance to industry standards; it builds a base for a lean safety culture proactively striving for wellness.



Safety programs are nothing without participation. An entire workplace must engage with policies, protocol, and PPE in order to execute an effective program.

Well-designed personal protective equipment must be comfortable, durable, and styled for easy use, in addition to meeting –and greatly exceeding – mandatory requirements.

6

A track record of excellence is no accident

How long has your manufacturer been working in the safety industry, and who uses their products? Do they have deep industry experience? Where do their products excel?

Paulson Manufacturing consistently over-delivers with every piece of PPE, designing innovative protection with technical materials and smart engineering. A complete vertical manufacturing setup means that we keep our operations and quality control in-house. This allows us total creative control and flexibility, all while supplying high-quality U.S.-made products.

Our team proudly develops design and engineering solutions for unique client, brand, and performance needs. We carefully bind our products with the look and performance needs of each and every client.

As a result, Paulson products perform well beyond the designations of NFPA 70E

About Us

A grayscale photograph of an industrial facility, likely a refinery or chemical plant, featuring a large cylindrical tower and a complex network of metal scaffolding and pipes.

It's never too late to create a healthy workplace. Choosing high quality equipment is the first step in supporting good practices and positive behaviors for thorough, confident safety programming.


The best PPE is built on performance and reliability. At Paulson, we have been designing and manufacturing safety products to meet a wide range of hazards of the American workplace for 71 years and counting. We are proud to support industrial workers and first responders around the world.

To learn more about how we can help you choose the right equipment for your protection and performance needs, contact us here or give us a call at 800-542-2451.

[Contact Us](#)

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A grayscale photograph of an industrial facility, showing a dense network of pipes, valves, and metal structures, similar to the top image.