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Let's Connect!



**OSHA
Update
for 2021**

John Olachea, CIH,
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Wednesday, December 9,
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6:00 p.m. CST

You can find more information
here: [Webinars - NAWIC](#)

OSHA-NAWIC Alliance

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Women in Construction



In addition to the primary safety and health hazards faced by all construction workers, there are safety and health issues specific to female construction workers. These safety and health hazards create barriers to women entering and remaining in construction fields. NAWIC has been instrumental in bringing awareness and insight about these issues to OSHA and other safety organizations and have been successful in making construction working conditions better for women. Sanitary conditions for women on the jobsite will be addressed in an upcoming issue of NAWIC Today and future online training. Another important issue that pertains to women is PPE. Below is information from the OSHA website.

Many women in nontraditional jobs, such as the construction trades, have encountered improperly fitting personal protective equipment (PPE) and personal protective clothing (PPC) which may compromise their personal safety.

Personal protective equipment used by women workers should be based upon female anthropometric (body measurement) data. Women should make a point to test employer provided PPE, and if the provided PPE is uncomfortable, or not suitable for the worker (e.g., improperly fitting or damaged from wear or defect) they should report this condition to their employer for a suitable replacement.

PPE must fit properly so that it can effectively protect the employee from the hazard for which it was designed. Today there has been tremendous progress in the availability of PPE for women. The International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) reports that many employers now provide a full range of sizes for PPE. ISEA lists manufacturers who offer safety equipment in various sizes that is appropriate for women in construction

Best Practice: In addition to compliance with the OSHA regulations, whenever employers are required to purchase PPE, they should purchase these items in size ranges suitable for women. Employers should maintain a directory of PPE manufacturers and suppliers on hand, identify a wide selection of size ranges for PPE, keep appropriate size ranges in stock, and ensure direct accessibility, as required. **Remember: One size does not fit all!**

Additional OSHA information and resources for this and other issues related to women in the construction workplace can be found at: [Women in Construction - Overview | Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(osha.gov\)](#)