Safety Shoes and Boots

Steel-reinforced safety shoes
These shoes are designed to protect your feet from common machinery hazards such as falling or rolling objects, cuts, and punctures. The entire toe box and insole are reinforced with steel, and the instep is protected by steel, aluminum, or plastic materials. Safety shoes are also designed to insulate against temperature extremes and may be equipped with special soles to guard against slip, chemical, and/or electrical hazards. Other protective footwear (such as metatarsal and shin guards) can be used in conjunction with standard safety shoes.

Safety boots
Safety boots come in many varieties, and which you will use will depend on the specific hazards you face. Boots offer more protection when splash or spark hazards (chemicals, molten materials) are present. When working with corrosives, caustics, cutting oils, and petroleum products, neoprene or nitrile boots are often required to prevent penetration.

Foundry or gaiter style boots (often used in welding operations) feature quick-release fasteners or elasticized insets to allow speedy removal should any hazardous substance get into the boot itself. When working with electricity, you may need to wear special electrical hazard boots, which are designed with no conductive materials other than the steel toe (which is properly insulated).

Protective footwear
There are many types and styles of protective footwear, and it’s important to realize that your job may require additional protection. Features such as slip-resistant soles, for example, will vary from one shoe to the next, depending on the type of slip hazard. Whatever your specific requirements, you can ensure that your footwear meets established safety standards by checking for the American National Standards Institute’s (ANSI) label inside each shoe.

Prevent foot injuries by using common safety sense and wearing the appropriate footwear.
Additional Information for Presenters
Review the information provided on the reverse side of this safety tip sheet. Please refrain from reading the information verbatim—paraphrase it instead.

OSHA Standards That May Apply:
1910.136  Occupational foot protection
1910.120 App B  General description and discussion of the levels of protection and protective gear

ANSI Standards That May Apply:
A-A-1605 NOT 1  Shoes, conductive (men’s safety)
A-A-1767 NOT 1  Shoes, safety (men’s low quarter)
A-A-1804 NOT 1  Shoes, safety (men’s high top)
A-A-1890 NOT 1  Shoes, electrical hazard protective (men’s safety)
A-A-1952A NOT 1  Shoes, ladder safety
A-A-1803 NOT 1  Boots, safety (men’s high top)
A-A-1946 NOT 1  Boots, electrical hazard productive men’s safety

Links:
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
www.osha.gov

American National Standards Institute
www.ansi.org

Source:
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