



# OH&S Bulletin

## If the Shoe Fits, Wear It.

### If it Doesn't, Get Some Decent Ones.

Badly fitting safety boots or shoes can cause serious injuries, not just to workers feet, but they can increase the risk of tripping or slipping and become a hazard in themselves.

#### Protection or Risk?

Employers are required to do a risk assessment and hazard identification for every situation. The provision of appropriate safety equipment (Personal Protective Equipment or PPE) should be part of this assessment. Some bosses are reluctant to spend the extra money to make sure that boots are well fitting and comfortable, but they could be exposing themselves to much bigger amounts of money if a workers develops a serious injury to their feet or if badly fitting footwear contributes to an accident.



#### The same old story?

We're used to bosses trying to save money on occupational health and safety and some reckon that if a worker asks for something extra they must be trying to rip them off. But you don't see them walking around in shoes that don't fit properly. If your boss is one of the "You'll get what I give you variety, try to explain that you are only trying to save them money in the long term, because accidents and injuries in the building and construction industry can be very expensive.

Authorised by Pat Preston, Environmental & Occupational Health & Safety Unit.