

Operational Advice Notice

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

17th June 2024

ASGrOps_OAN_285

Version 1.0

It is the responsibility of all employers to ensure that relevant OANs are brought to the attention of their staff. However, individuals remain responsible for their own actions and those who are in any doubt should consult their Supervisor or Manager.

1. Introduction

ASGrOps_OSI_042, Use of Personal Protective Equipment Airside details that the airside environment can present many potential hazards. Several recent incidents have also highlighted the risk in wearing loose clothing and that when operating near or around an aircraft fuselage there is an increased risk of head injuries.

2. Bump Caps

- 2.1 Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL) has been engaging with the airside community through several forums to mandate the wearing of bump caps. Since January 2023, there have been 63 head injuries that involved colleagues working in the aircraft hold, near or around aircraft fuselages. In most cases, if a bump cap had been worn, the likelihood of injury would have been significantly reduced. As such, the trial for the use of bump caps will be in these areas.
- 2.2 During the turnaround or servicing of aircraft, including maintenance, ground handlers and service providers work in an environment where there is a risk of impact to the head due to low or restricted clearances (heights). Whilst they are not designed to protect against falling or flying objects, a bump cap acts as a barrier to protect the wearer from minor head bumps and lacerations. It has been agreed that HAL would engage with members of the airside community to trial the introduction of bump caps.
- 2.3 The trial will commence **on 1st July 2024 and continues until 31st October 2024**. At that stage, subject to the trial findings, HAL intends to mandate the use of bump caps.
- 2.4 It should be noted that whilst the trial is taking place, HAL continues to recommend the use of bump caps for any turnaround or servicing activity where airside community colleagues are exposed to the risk of impact to the head due to low or restricted clearances, such as working near or under the fuselage and inside the cargo hold. HAL may extend the requirements of wearing bump caps to other work environments during this trial.
- 2.5 The trial outcome will be reviewed and shared with the airside community.



3. Loose Clothing

- 3.1 All colleagues operating airside must not wear any loose clothing and ensure all lanyards and long hair are appropriately secured so that these items do not get caught in equipment when in use.
- 3.2 Colleagues should only wear company-issued uniform and the appropriate PPE fit for their role, ensuring that PPE is in good condition and fits properly.

4. Enquiries

Any questions regarding this notice should be directed to michael.goacher@heathrow.com.

