 Synopsis: 
This SOP describes the procedures used by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to determine when personal protective equipment (PPE) may be required and outlines the steps to be taken in selecting, using, and maintaining appropriate PPE.

 Summary Procedure: 

1. Conduct a hazard assessment for the work/research activities in question. Typical hazards to consider include: a) physical hazards from thermal sources (heat/cold), high pressures, pinch points, moving parts/machinery, electrical energy, vibration, compression, noise, confined spaces, and elevated heights; b) potential for chemical or biological agent exposure/injury due to inhalation, ingestion or absorption of the agent through the skin; c) ionizing radiation exposure; and d) tissue damage due to non-ionizing radiation exposure, e.g., from laser beams and magnets.

2. Review past injuries, job/task operating instructions, previous job hazard analyses, material safety data sheets, and equipment vendor recommendations for appropriate PPE. Evaluate the hazards associated with performing the individual tasks as well as hazards posed to those in the area while the task is being performed.

3. Complete the Hazard Assessment Certification form found in Appendix B of the PPE SOP.

4. Select appropriate PPE. Refer to Appendix A, C, and D of the SOP for guidance on proper PPE selection. Review Appendix E for guidance on ordering prescription safety glasses.

5. Ensure the appropriate fit testing and medical clearance is obtained for PPE assigned on an individual basis (e.g., respirators). Note any impediments to proper function of the PPE, e.g., beard interference with proper respirator fit.