



Safety Footwear – Standards, Risk Assessment & Guidance

MJ Scannell Safety | RG Ireland

The style, materials and design of safety footwear have advanced significantly in recent years. To choose the correct industrial footwear, a risk assessment should first be carried out so that the selected footwear complements the working environment. MJ Scannell Safety has access to a vast range of professional safety footwear. This document illustrates the current European safety footwear standards and protection levels available.

Risk Assessment

Risk assessment involves defining the work area, recognising hazards and identifying appropriate methods of risk reduction. The protective features of modern safety footwear may include impact resistant toe caps, penetration resistant midsoles, antistatic properties, heat and cold insulation, water resistance, resistance to fuels and chemicals, and enhanced slip resistance.

Care and Maintenance

To ensure optimum performance and service life, safety footwear should be cleaned regularly using appropriate products. Do not use caustic cleaning agents. Where footwear becomes wet, allow it to dry naturally in a cool, ventilated area. Do not force dry, as excessive heat can damage materials. Correct use, storage, environmental conditions and contamination levels will affect service life.

Footwear Standards (European PPE)

Professional Use	Standard	Description
Safety Footwear	EN ISO 20345:2022 + A1:2024	Toe protection ≥ 200 joules
Protective Footwear	EN ISO 20346:2022 + A1:2024	Toe protection ≥ 100 joules
Occupational Footwear	EN ISO 20347:2022 + A1:2024	No toe protection

Safety Footwear Classification – EN ISO 20345

Class	Protection
SB	Basic requirements
S1	SB + antistatic + heel energy absorption + closed heel
S1P	S1 + penetration resistance
S2	S1 + water penetration & absorption resistance
S3	S2 + penetration resistance + cleated outsole
S4	Waterproof polymer footwear (S1 equivalent)
S5	S4 + penetration resistance

Additional Protection Markings

Symbol	Meaning
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A	Antistatic footwear
E	Energy absorption in heel
P / PL / PS	Penetration resistance (metal / non-metal / high performance)
CI	Cold insulation
HI	Heat insulation
HRO	Heat resistant outsole (contact heat)
WPA	Water penetration and absorption resistance
FO	Resistance to fuel and oil
LG	Ladder grip
SC	Scuff cap abrasion resistance
SR	Enhanced slip resistance
Ø	Slip resistance not tested

Slip Resistance (Updated Standard)

Under EN ISO 20345:2022, basic slip resistance is mandatory for all certified safety footwear. The former SRA, SRB and SRC classifications are no longer used. Enhanced slip resistance is marked with the symbol 'SR' when footwear passes additional glycerine-tested ceramic tile requirements. Slip resistance reduces, but does not eliminate, the risk of slipping, particularly in highly contaminated environments.

Shoe Size Conversion (Guidance Only)

EU	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
UK/Irish	2	3	4	5	6	6.5	7	8	9	10	10.5	11	12	13