

**WORKSAFE SERVICES DIVISION
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
LEGISLATION INTERPRETATIONS**



Topic	Protective equipment - Barrier Cream	Issued by: V.P., WorkSafe Services
Statute	<i>Regulation 91-191</i>	Date Issued: June 10, 1999
Section	42e)	Date Revised: Oct 13, 2004

42 Where an employee is exposed to a hazard that may injure the skin, the employee shall use, as necessary,
e) a barrier cream or oil to prevent irritation to exposed parts of the body.

Question

Does this section refer to sunscreen and insect repellent since these products help prevent irritation to exposed areas of the body?

Answer

This section is intended to address caustic substances that workers use in various processes. These substances can burn and irritate the skin. The effects of sun and insects are not unique to work environments and are not the focus of this requirement.

Where the only potential hazard to employees is over exposure to the sun or a risk of serious insect bites;

1. the employer should provide sunscreen or insect repellent to the employee;
2. the employee should use the sunscreen or insect repellent as directed by the manufacturer and;
3. the sunscreen has a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15 which provides protection from both UVA and UVB type ultraviolet radiation.

Employers could develop a written policy to deal with these issues (i.e. identifying the requirement for different tasks or work locations).