

# Footwear Guidelines for NSW Government Schools

## Health & Safety Directorate

The Department through its WHS Policy, is committed to providing a safe working and learning environment for all employees, others undertaking work, students and visitors, in accordance with statutory and regulatory obligations and corporate objectives.

Footwear is an important safety item. Good soles provide a sound grip on the floor preventing accidents such as slips, trips and falls from occurring. Footwear can also protect feet from damage caused by accidents such as falling objects or chemical spillages. These guidelines have been developed to assist NSW government schools in providing a safe working and learning environment.

### Areas where safe footwear must be worn

In accordance with the Safe Working Policy, the Department has identified areas of its workplaces where appropriate footwear must be worn by employees, students and visitors to ensure their safety.

Areas where enclosed leather footwear (or other material confirmed by the manufacturer to be suitable, refer to Australian/NZ Standard 2210: *Safety Protective and Occupational Footwear*) is required are:

- Industrial Arts and trades workshop areas
- Science laboratories
- Canteen or Food Technology (kitchen areas)

Sandals, open footwear, high heel shoes, canvas type shoes/and or gym boots are not permitted in these areas. If students present for a class or activity with inappropriate footwear the student should be offered alternative educational activities until they are wearing appropriate footwear.

The above list is not exhaustive. Appropriate safe footwear may also be identified as a requirement in relation to other areas or activities, documented procedure or a documented risk assessment. For example, in work situations where floors can't always be kept dry or clean, the right footwear is especially important, so a slip resistant shoe may be required. Another example is wearing enclosed leather footwear (or suitable safe alternative) in agricultural areas/activities.

In addition, other sites on which the Department provides services may have specific requirements which should be adhered to, for example, Education Training Units in Juvenile Justice settings.