

Choosing safety footwear fit for purpose and that meets the latest safety standards is vital. But the numerous standards, classification numbers and optional properties can at times be confusing and overwhelming.

Here's our quick reference guide to make selecting suitable safety boots, safety shoes and safety trainers a walk in the park.

New safety footwear coming onto the market from June 2013 must comply to ISO EN 20345:2011. This replaces EN 20345:2004 and EN 345, and the relevant safety standard will always be displayed on the footwear to which it conforms.

Selecting the relevant safety safety footwear is as easy as 1 2 3. In fact, it's so easy even a monkey could do it!



**1: Select Safety Footwear that carries the EN 20345:2011 Safety Standard**

Basic requirements of this standard are that safety footwear must have a 200J steel toe cap.

*Other optional properties that may be included comprise:*

P: Penetration resistance

CR: Cut resistant

M: Metatarsal protection

AN: Ankle protection

E: Energy-absorbing seat region

C: Conductive

A: Antistatic

ESD: Prevents damage to electrostatic components

HI: Insulating against heat

HRO: Outer sole resistant to hot contact

FO: Fuel oil resistant sole

CI: Insulating against cold

WR: Whole footwear resistant to water penetration / absorption

WRU: Uppers resistant to water penetration / absorption

*Slip Resistance Rating - one of:*

SRA: On ceramic surface with soap

SRB: On steel with glycerol

SRC: Both of the above



**2: The footwear then has a classification number, either I or II:**

*I: Made from leather and other materials, but not rubber or polymeric types as follows;*

SB: Basic requirements for safety footwear met

S1: Basic requirements plus closed and energy-absorbing seat region and antistatic

S2: As S1 plus seater penetration and absorption

S3: As S2 plus penetration resistance and cleated sole

*II: Made from all rubber or polymeric types:*

SB: Basic requirements for safety footwear met

S4: Basic requirements plus energy-absorbing seat region and antistatic

S5: As S4 plus penetration resistance and cleated sole



**3: Buy with the confidence that you are wearing safety footwear suitable for the intended purpose!**