SAFETY STANDARDS - Explained

Grisport Safety Footwear meets UNI EN ISO 20345:2012.

Safety footwear must pass a series of laboratory style tests in order to meet this Standard. Both AS/NZS2210.2009.3 and UNI EN ISO20345:2012 Standards require that footwear is tested in accordance with ISO 20345 (International Organization for Standardization) which is the basis for both Standards.

These tests include, but are not limited to:

- Toecap impact, toe crush
- Slip resistance
- Sole performance- such as flex tests, tear strength
- Upper performance such as abrasion resistance and tear strength

AS/NZS 2210:2009.3 make two additions to ISO 20345:

- The tongue label and stitch strength of the upper

Neither of these additional requirements have an impact on safety performance nor produce any additional risk for the wearer or the distributor of the footwear. In discussions with WorkSafe NZ, they advise that in the event of an investigation they assess if the safety equipment used is "fit for purpose" and that Standards are "just one tool" in measuring this. They also consider relevant overseas Standards to be acceptable. Accordingly, there are no compliance exposure issues, as both Standards apply the same base test for compliance in safety features.

Applying the "fit for purpose" test, we recommend the benefit of a closer look than just compliance with standards. *Within* the standards there are additional safety options that are scenario specific, feature-tested and therefore relevant. They include:

1. **Increased slip resistance** – The standards (marked 'SRA', 'SRB' or 'SRC') tell the wearer that the footwear provides higher levels of slip-resistance than the basic standard – an important feature when scaling a roof. The *entire* Grisport Safety Footwear range meets one of the additional anti-slip standards.

2. **Anti-penetration midsole protection** – This feature (marked 'P' or 'S3') protects the wearer from a puncture by nail or similar underfoot. In many countries, but not NZ, it is mandatory for most work sites to have anti-penetration protection in their footwear. In terms of injury risk, footwear with this feature is much safer than products without it. The majority of the Grisport Safety range features anti-penetration protection.

Grisport Safety Footwear actually offers a better result in the "fit for purpose" test than products that may meet AS/NZS2210.2009.3 but are sold without increased slip-resistance or anti-penetration protection.