



Düsseldorf, Germany  
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## HEAVY METAL DEFENDER TAKES PROTECTION TO NEW EXTREMES

*Ejendals of Sweden launches JALAS® Metatarsal  
certified foundry and welding boot*

*Despite increasing automation and modern working practices, 'heavy metal' applications such as foundry and welding work are still plagued by significantly higher injury rates than other manufacturing industries. Daily hazards include falling beams, molten metal over 1000°C and sparks that burn through clothing. Not to mention fires and explosions. The challenge for Ejendals was to create a boot that would stand up to literally anything, but still be light and comfortable. Impossible? Well, apparently not.*

In fact, Ejendals is no stranger to manufacturing heat-resistant footwear for applications such as welding and cutting. But the JALAS® 1948 Metatarsal is a breakthrough in foot safety, says **Juho Järvinen**, P&I Footwear Manager for Footwear at Ejendals. Not only does it withstand extreme temperatures, it also features built-in metatarsal protection. And what's more, it's surprisingly comfy.

"This is a real game-changer for some of the toughest industries we serve," Järvinen says. "Typically, boots for these applications are heavy and uncomfortable. And where metatarsal protection is offered, it's often in the form of a bulky flap. But this boot solves both of those challenges to give you the best of all worlds."

### **Foot protection starts with the ears**

The new boot resulted from close collaboration with industry customers. "We listened carefully to their needs and wishes," Järvinen says. "Customers wanted a certified foundry and welding boot that would be comfortable for long periods of use, as well as adding metatarsal protection. I'm really proud of the result. We've tested it to the extreme, and it delivers. You won't find any compromises here – just the ultimate in safety and performance."

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## Strong but light

Given the name of the boot, it will come as no surprise that metatarsal protection is a key feature. “We were determined to provide the ultimate defense,” Järvinen says, “and it had to be built in. The external flaps you often see are liable to break or get caught on something, introducing an additional hazard. Our solution uses a high-tech material that is extremely light and flexible. You can’t tell it’s there – until the worst happens.”

The **PORON® XRD® M-Guard** became the chosen solution after extensive research and testing. The built-in protector is remarkably slim and flexible, but the protection it delivers is definitely heavyweight. PORON® XRD® absorbs up to **90% of the energy** delivered upon high-speed impact. That, Järvinen adds, is what makes it the go-to impact protection material for extreme sports as well as industry.

## When the heat is on

Foundry and welding applications involve conditions that standard safety shoes are not designed for. Like molten metal splashes, welding sparks and fire to name just a few. And while Ejendals has always provided great protection against high temperatures, Järvinen says, this boot takes it further with certification. “The foundry and welding certification means this boot is rigorously tested for standards compliance, so you know exactly what level of protection and functionality you can expect.”

According to Ejendals, you can expect the upper of this boot to resist splashes of **molten metal at 1400°C**, and the outsole to withstand **temperatures up to 300°C**.”

## Close to the heart

When Juho Järvinen talks about the JALAS® Metatarsal, you can clearly hear the passion and enthusiasm in his voice. This boot, he says, has a special significance for Ejendals. “packing all the extremes of protection into one boot is really quite an achievement. It does it all, and it’s also comfortable to wear for hours on end. The design is simple, but every detail is carefully thought through – from an upper shaped to throw off liquids, right down to the heat-resistant Kevlar stitching.”

## Ready for anything

The JALAS® Metatarsal is certified for foundry and welding, but the uses for it don’t stop there. “It’s surprisingly versatile,” Järvinen says. “Because it’s so light and comfortable, you could use it for a range of other tasks – so you could use the same boot if, for example, you switch between foundry and warehouse environments. If you’re looking for the ultimate foot protection, this is it.”

## Zero accidents

This boot embodies Ejendals philosophy of designing for Zero Accidents, Järvinen adds. “It combines the highest level of protection with smart features and excellent comfort. All this contributes to safer and more effective performance in everyday work.”

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