



Personal Protective Equipment - Eye and Face Protection

Overview

Protection of worker vision is a responsibility shared by both you and your employees. The employer can provide all the necessary safety precautions, safety equipment, first aid facilities, and even a vision screening program, but the employee has to take safety seriously and use the protections provided.

When is eye and face protection necessary? What hazards are present?

Some of the causes of eye injuries and their related workplace operations include:

- Injurious gases, vapors, and liquids—Workers who handle acids or caustics or who weld are subject to these hazards.
- Dusts or powders, fumes, and mists—Some sources are scaling, light grinding, hammering, spot welding, and woodworking.
- Flying objects or particles—Some sources include chiseling, grinding, hammering, and metalworking. These hazards cause the majority of eye injuries.

Engineering controls

Plant equipment and machinery is the source of many eye injuries. Be sure employees use any guards, screens, and shields that are attached to the equipment. Make sure they are always in place and are used along with additional eye and face protection.

Types of eye and face protection

A wide variety of safety equipment is available to prevent eye injuries. Protective eye and face equipment must comply with ANSI guidelines and must be marked directly on the piece of equipment.

Each type of eye and face protection is designed for a specific hazard and is selected for the specific hazards found on the job.

Wearing eye and face protection

In order for personal protection to be effective, it must be comfortable and it must be worn properly. Wearing proper eye and face protection for a specific job is important. You must understand its purpose and limitations. The eye and face protection must not be removed even though it might feel cumbersome. Safety eyewear should be fitted by someone skilled in the procedure.



Inspection and maintenance

Inspection and maintenance is an important consideration for protective equipment. Continuously looking through dirty lenses causes eye strain and can become an excuse for not wearing eye protection. Pitted, cracked, scratched, or chipped lenses reduce vision, lead to disuse of the eye protection, and tend to break more readily.

Employee training

Training requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE) are found at 1910.132(f)—Training. There are specific requirements for both the employer and the employee. A few of them are:

- The employer shall provide training to each employee who is required by this section to use PPE.
- Each such employee shall be trained to know at least the following: when PPE is necessary, what PPE is necessary.
- The employer shall verify that each affected employee has received and understood the required training through a written certification that contains the name of each employee trained, the date(s) of training, and that identifies the subject of the certification.

Training tips

You may want to review company policy on discipline for failure to use assigned eye and face protection. Remind workers that OSHA developed these rules for their benefit—to reduce or eliminate eye injuries at the workplace.



Sample Safety Meeting Agenda

1. Accidents, injuries, near-misses, discuss:

- Incidents that have occurred in your company since the last meeting.
- Any follow-up that has been done as a result of investigations into incidents.
- Incidents that have happened in other companies.
- Updates to the company's Accident Prevention Plan from "lessons learned."

2. Results of safety inspections.

- Discuss the results of recent safety inspections.
- Follow up on assignments for eliminating or controlling identified hazards.
- Encourage employees to identify any unsafe conditions or tasks.
- Discuss ways to eliminate or control the hazards.
- When appropriate, assign responsibilities for eliminating or controlling identified hazards.

3. Training.

- Discuss any new safe work procedures or other policies and procedures that need to be implemented.
- Safety Topic of the Month: a presentation and discussion on the chosen topic.

4. Open forum.

- Any one who has a concern about safety and health should bring it up for discussion.

5. Next meeting.

- Set the time, date, and place for the next meeting.
- Select a Safety Topic and designate the presenter/discussion leader.





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Employee Sign-in Sheet

Persons attending this meeting:

_____	_____
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_____	_____

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

