



## PREVENTING EYE INJURIES



All eye protection should be certified by American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z87.1 and contain the Z87 mark on the frames and lenses. Employees should be required to wear eye and face protection whenever they are exposed to the following hazards:

- Dust and debris
- Molten metal
- Acids or caustic liquids
- Potentially damaging light radiation
- Biohazards
- Flying objects or particles
- Liquid chemical splashes
- Chemical gases or vapors
- Glare

### **Learn how to select the proper protection.**

- Consider the kind of eye hazards employees will be exposed to.
- Consider the degree of hazard—whether employees will be exposed to a low or high impact hazard.
- Select the eyewear that protects against the greatest possible hazard level.
- Employees may need to wear a combination of protection to guard against multiple hazards.

### **Become familiar with all types of eye and face protection.**

#### Safety Glasses:

- Safety glasses are the minimum required eye protection.
- Use safety glasses wherever there is minor dust, chips, or flying particles.
- For greater side protection, use safety glasses with side shields or wraparound protection.
- Use safety glasses with antifog treatment to improve visibility.

#### Goggles:

- Goggles offer greater protection from high-impact hazards, dust, and chemical splashes.
- Goggles with indirect venting will minimize fogging when exposed to splashes or fine dust.
- Choose goggles with direct venting when working with large particles.



#### Face Shields:

- Use face shields for the highest impact hazards and for protection from spraying, chipping, grinding, and critical chemical or bloodborne hazards.
- Face shields may be tinted or metal coated for heat and splatter protection.
- Always wear safety glasses or goggles under a face shield.

#### Welding Goggles, Helmets, and Shields:

- Welding goggles, helmets, and shields have special filtered shades that protect against welding light, which can cause severe burns to the eye.
- Lenses used in welding PPE are marked with shade numbers ranging from 1.5 (the lowest protection) to 14 (the darkest and highest protection).
- Select the darkest shade possible that still allows for visibility.
- Wear eye protection even when you lift-up the helmet.

### **Take extra care with prescription eyewear.**

Streetwear prescription eyeglasses and contact lenses are generally not suitable as eye protection.

Consider these options instead:

- Wear prescription eyewear with special impact-resistant frames and lenses.
- Wear tight-fitting goggles over streetwear prescription glasses and contact lenses.
- Wear special prescription inserts that fit inside goggles or inside full-face respirators without breaking the seal.

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