

Personal Protective Equipment: Eye Protection

5-Minute Talk

Overview Of Topic

Eye protection is one of the easiest and least expensive OSHA safety requirements to implement, yet each year thousands of workers injure their eyes or lose their sight, not because they didn't have the proper eye protection, but because they chose not to wear it. For this reason, and because the opportunities for being injured in the workplace are great, training in this area is crucial.

Eye hazards

The main hazards to the eyes in the workplace include the following:

- Injurious gases, vapors, and liquid,
- Dusts or powders, fumes, and mists,
- Flying particles or objects,
- Splashing metals,
- Heat, glare, and ultraviolet and infrared rays,
- Lasers, and
- Electrical hazards.

Anytime machines or operations present potential eye injury from physical, chemical, or radiation elements, your company must select, provide, maintain, and require affected employees to use appropriate eye protection.

Eye protection must be:

- Adequate for the environment,
- Reasonably comfortable,
- Snug without interfering with the movements of the wearer,
- Durable, and
- Capable of being disinfected and cleaned.

Employees who wear prescription lenses must wear:

- Spectacles whose protective lenses provide optical correction;
- Goggles that can be worn over corrective spectacles without disturbing the adjustment of the spectacles; or
- Goggles that incorporate corrective lenses mounted behind the protective lenses.



For protection against radiant energy you must select the appropriate shade number for the filter lenses or plates used in welding.

Employee Training

Under 29 CFR 1910.132 General requirements, OSHA require that employers provide training to each employee who must use PPE. That training should include details of:

- When PPE is necessary,
- What PPE is necessary,
- How to properly don, doff, adjust, and wear PPE,
- The limitations of the PPE, and
- The proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of PPE.





Training Tips

- Using the employee handout, review the requirements for eye protection.
- Show the types of eye protection and how to wear and care for them.
- Review the location of eyewash stations and explain their use.

Where To Go For More Information

29 CFR 1910.133—Eye and face protection.

ANSI Z87.1-1989—Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection.

