

Eye and Face Protection

OSHA requires employers provide eye and face protection for employees in the workplace to protect against chemical, environmental, bloodborne pathogens, radiation or physical hazards.

To reduce the risk of on-the-job eye and face injuries, students and employees must wear appropriate eye and face protective equipment when exposed to any potential eye or face hazard. All of these devices must comply with the ANSI Standard Z87.1.



Safety Glasses

Frame imprint: The imprint "Z87" must be present on all approved safety glasses frames. "Z87" (basic impact) or "Z87+" (high impact).

- Safety glasses are the minimum requirement in a lab or shop area where students and employees are exposed to chemicals, biological and physical hazards.
- Safety glasses with side shields must be worn in an area that has particles, flying objects or dust.
- Regular eyeglasses should not be used as eye protective devices. Many types of safety glasses can be worn over prescription glasses.



Safety Goggles

- Safety goggles provide complete coverage around the eyes. Goggles should be worn any time when handling chemicals or impact hazards. Vents are designed to reduce fogging.
 - Chemical splash goggles, indirect vents or non-vent, should be worn when there is a risk of chemical splash, biohazards, flying particles or situations where required by lab operating procedures.
 - Impact goggles, direct vents, are generally used to prevent projectiles and collision activities from piercing the eye. They are required when using power tools such as drills or chainsaws.
- Many types of safety goggles are designed to fit comfortably over regular eyeglasses.

Safety Tips

1. Chemical splash goggles are recommended for use when wearing contact lenses.
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-139/pdfs/2005-139-508.pdf?id=10.26616/NIOSH2005139>
2. Special eyewear filter lenses are required in order to protect against harmful radiant energy sources from ultraviolet, laser, gas or arc welding, soldering and brazing operation.
3. Keep your safety eyewear in good condition and have it replaced when it starts to fit poorly, is scratched or damaged.
4. Clean protective eyewear regularly by following manufacturer's instructions and store in a dry place to avoid scratching.
5. Know the locations of emergency eyewash station.

Face Shields



- Face shield are secondary protective device to shield the entire face against chemical splash, infectious materials and physical hazards.
- Face shields should only be worn over safety glasses or goggles when needed for additional face protection.
- The window material and the thickness should be compatible with the required degree of protection for your specific tasks.

