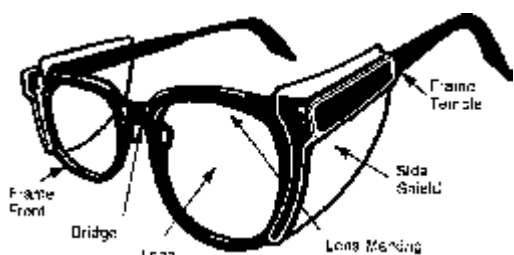


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EYE AND FACE PROTECTION



Eye injuries occur in Manitoba workplaces daily. About 4,000 lost time injuries are reported to the Workers Compensation Board each year. These types of injuries can be prevented by implementing proper engineering controls and using appropriate and approved personal protective equipment.

To ensure that the proper eye and face protection is selected and used, employers and workers must assess the particular hazards in their work environment and implement EYE AND FACE PROTECTION POLICY. This policy will identify the appropriate protection to be worn based upon the type and severity of hazards encountered in the workplace.

Personal eye and face protection should be used in conjunction with ENGINEERING CONTROLS at the source of the hazard. Engineering controls are methods of controlling employee exposures by modifying the source or reducing the quantity of hazards.

Under the WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT, W210, and applicable regulations, The Workplace Safety and Health Division requires that workers be provided with and use suitable eye protection when engaged in work which constitutes a hazard to the eyes or face. Typical hazards include flying objects and particles, splashing liquids, molten metal, and ultraviolet, visible, and infrared radiation.

The eye protector chosen must meet the requirements of the Canadian Standards Association C.S.A.-Z94.3-99 "Industrial Eye & Face Protectors." Individuals who wear PRESCRIPTION EYEWEAR should be aware that at the present time glass lenses do not meet the impact requirements outlined in Z94.3; prescription lenses other than glass must have a minimum thickness of not less than 3.0 mm unless manufactured to meet the statistical protocol requirements of the standard. Lenses of prescription eyewear shall meet the size requirements specified in the standard and be equipped with permanently attached or removable side shields. Note: Prescription glasses not meeting these requirements shall be covered by approved eye protection.

In addition, at any workplace where there is a risk of eye injury from exposure to hazardous chemical substances, employers shall provide approved emergency eyewash equipment. (See WorkSafe Bulletin #104)

CONTACT LENSES are not a substitute for proper eye and face protection. If contact lenses are worn in an industrial setting, the same engineering controls, protective equipment and procedures should be used to protect against the hazards. If there are concerns about wearing contacts in your workplace, consult and eye specialist.

Eye and face protectors should be available in an adequate range of eye, bridge and temple sizes to meet the needs of individual workers. Also, a qualified person should be available to assist workers in obtaining a proper and comfortable fit. For more details on the use and selection of eyewear, consult Canadian Standards Association C.S.A.-Z94.3.1 "Protective Eyewear: A User's Guide."

