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PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) – EYES AND FACE

(For assistance, please contact EHS at (402) 472-4925, or visit our web site at <http://ehs.unl.edu>)

Introduction

Eye and/or face protection is mandated by federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, as well as state law (Nebraska Revised Statute, Section 85-901), which requires use of American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-approved eye protection by students, faculty, staff, and visitors at UNL who observe or participate in:

1. Vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical, or chemical-physical courses of instruction involving potential exposure to:
 - Hot molten metals or other molten metals.
 - Milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials.
 - Heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials.
 - Gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes.
 - Repair or servicing of any vehicle.
 - Caustic or explosive materials.
2. Chemical, physical, or combined chemical-physical laboratories involving caustic or explosive material, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiation, or other hazards not enumerated.

Hazards

The appropriate ensemble of face and eye protection is determined through a hazard assessment. The hazard assessment must consider multiple and simultaneous hazards that may be present and provide protection against the highest level of each hazard. The tables below summarize OSHA and ANSI hazard assessment guidance.

OSHA Eye and Face Protection Selection Chart		
Source	Assessment of Hazard	Protection
IMPACT -- Chipping, grinding machining, masonry work, woodworking, sawing, drilling, chiseling, powered fastening, riveting, and sanding	Flying fragments, objects, large chips, particles sand, dirt, etc	Spectacles with side protection, goggles, face shields. See notes (1), (3), (5), (6), (10). For severe exposure, use faceshield.
HEAT -- Furnace operations, pouring, casting, hot dipping, and welding	Hot sparks	Faceshields, goggles, spectacles with side protection. For severe exposure use faceshield. See notes (1), (2), (3).
	Splash from molten metals	Faceshields worn over goggles. See notes (1), (2), (3).

	High temperature exposure	Screen face shields, reflective face shields. See notes (1), (2), (3).
CHEMICALS -- Acid and chemicals handling, degreasing plating	Splash	Goggles, eyecup and cover types. For severe exposure, use face shield. See notes (3), (11).
	Irritating mists	Special-purpose goggles.
DUST -- Woodworking, buffing, general dusty conditions	Nuisance dust	Goggles, eyecup and cover types. See note (8).
LIGHT and/or RADIATION --		
Welding: Electric arc	Optical radiation	Welding helmets or welding shields. Typical shades: 10-14. See notes (9), (12)
Welding: Gas	Optical radiation	Welding goggles or welding face shield. Typical shades: gas welding 4-8, cutting 3-6, brazing 3-4. See note (9)
Cutting, Torch brazing, Torch soldering	Optical radiation	Spectacles or welding face-shield. Typical shades, 1.5-3. See notes (3), (9)
Glare	Poor vision	Spectacles with shaded or special-purpose lenses, as suitable. See notes (9), (10).

Notes to Eye and Face Protection Selection Chart:

- (1) Care should be taken to recognize the possibility of multiple and simultaneous exposure to a variety of hazards. Adequate protection against the highest level of each of the hazards should be provided. Protective devices do not provide unlimited protection.
- (2) Operations involving heat may also involve light radiation. As required by the standard, protection from both hazards must be provided.
- (3) Faceshields should only be worn over primary eye protection (spectacles or goggles).
- (4) As required by the standard, filter lenses must meet the requirements for shade designations in 1910.133(a)(5). Tinted and shaded lenses are not filter lenses unless they are marked or identified as such.
- (5) As required by the standard, persons whose vision requires the use of prescription (Rx) lenses must wear either protective devices fitted with prescription (Rx) lenses or protective devices designed to be worn over regular prescription (Rx) eyewear.
- (6) Wearers of contact lenses must also wear appropriate eye and face protection devices in a hazardous environment. It should be recognized that dusty and/or chemical environments may represent an additional hazard to contact lens wearers.
- (7) Caution should be exercised in the use of metal frame protective devices in electrical hazard areas.
- (8) Atmospheric conditions and the restricted ventilation of the protector can cause lenses to fog. Frequent cleansing may be necessary.
- (9) Welding helmets or faceshields should be used only over primary eye protection (spectacles or goggles).
- (10) Non-sideshield spectacles are available for frontal protection only, but are not acceptable eye protection for the sources and operations listed for "impact."
- (11) Ventilation should be adequate, but well protected from splash entry. Eye and face protection should be designed and used so that it provides both adequate ventilation and protects the wearer from splash entry.
- (12) Protection from light radiation is directly related to filter lens density. See note (4). Select the darkest shade that allows task performance.

Eye Protection for Lasers (OSHA)		
Intensity, CW maximum power density [watts/cm ² (d)]	Attenuation	
	Optical Density (OD)	Attenuation Factor
10(-2)	5	10(5)
10(-1)	6	10(6)
1.0	7	10(7)
10.0	8	10(8)

ANSI Eye and Face Protection Selection Chart			
Hazard	Protectors	Limitations	Markings
IMPACT – Chipping, grinding, machining, riveting, sanding			
Flying fragments, objects, large chips, particles, sand, dirt, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectacles with side protection • Goggles with direct or indirect ventilation • Faceshield worn over spectacles or goggles • Welding helmet 	<p>Caution should be exercised in the use of metal frame protective devices in electrical hazard areas. Metal frame protective devices could potentially cause electrical shock and electrical burn through contact with, or thermal burns from exposure to the hazards of electrical energy, which include radiation from accidental arcs.</p> <p>Atmospheric conditions and the restricted ventilation of a protector can cause lenses to fog. Frequent cleaning may be required.</p>	Impact rated: + (spectacle lens) Z87+ (all other lenses) Z87+ (plano frame) Z87-2+ (Rx frame)
HEAT - Furnace operations, pouring, casting, hot dipping, gas cutting, and welding			
Hot sparks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectacles with side protection • Goggles with direct or indirect ventilation • Faceshield worn over spectacles or goggles • Full-facepiece respirator • Loose-fitting respirator worn over spectacles 	<p>Spectacles, cup and cover type goggles do not provide unlimited facial protection.</p> <p>Operations involving heat may also involve optical radiation. Protection from both hazards should be provided.</p>	
Splash from molten metal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faceshield worn over spectacles or goggles • Full-facepiece respirator • Loose-fitting respirator worn over spectacles 		
High temperature exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen faceshield over spectacles or goggles • Reflective faceshield over spectacles or goggles 		
CHEMICAL – Acid and chemical handling, degreasing, and plating			
Splash and irritating mists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goggles with indirect ventilation (eyecup or cover type) • Faceshield over spectacles or goggles • Full-facepiece respirator 	Atmospheric conditions and the restricted ventilation of a protector can cause lenses to fog. Frequent cleaning may be required.	Splash/droplet: D3

DUST- Woodworking, buffing, general dusty conditions			
Nuisance dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goggles with direct or indirect ventilation (eyecup or cover type) • Full-facepiece respirator 	Atmospheric conditions and the restricted ventilation of a protector can cause lenses to fog. Frequent cleaning may be required.	Dust: D4 Fine dust: D5
OPTICAL RADIATION			
Welding: Electric Arc Viewing electric arc furnaces and boilers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welding helmet over spectacles or goggles. • Handshield over spectacles or goggles 	Protection from optical radiation is directly related to filter lens density. Select the darkest shade that allows adequate task performance.	Welding: W shade number UV: U scale number Glare: L scale number IR: R scale number Variable tint: V Special purpose: S
Typical filter lens shade: 10 - 14		Note: Filter lenses shall meet the requirements for shade designations in table 6 of ANSI/ISEA Z87.1-2010.	
Welding: Gas Viewing gas fired furnaces and boilers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welding helmet over spectacles or goggles. • Welding goggles. • Welding faceshield over spectacles or goggles. 		
Typical filter lens shade: 4 - 8			
Cutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welding goggles • Welding helmet over spectacles or goggles • Welding faceshield over spectacles or goggles • Welding respirator 		
Typical filter lens shade: 3 - 6			
Torch brazing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welding goggles • Welding helmet over spectacles or goggles • Welding faceshield over spectacles or goggles 		
Typical filter lens shade: 3 - 4			
Torch soldering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectacles • Welding faceshield over spectacles • Welding respirator 	Shade or special purpose lenses, as suitable.	
Typical filter lens shade: 1.5 - 3		Note: Refer to definition of special lenses in ANSI/ISEA Z87.1-2010	
Glare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectacles with or without side protection • Faceshield over spectacles or goggles 		

Other Considerations

- Face and eye protection is not a substitute for feasible engineering controls and safe work practices.
- Faceshields are not a primary protection device for the eyes. They must be used in combination with spectacles or goggles if eye protection is needed.
- Departments have the option of providing eye protection for students, purchasing eye protection and selling it to students at cost; making eye protection available for a moderate rental fee; or requiring students to provide their own.
- Departments are required to provide employees with appropriate eye protection at no cost to the employees. Departments must provide persons whose vision requires the use of prescription (Rx) lenses with either protective devices fitted with prescription (Rx) lenses or protective devices designed to be worn over regular prescription (Rx) eyewear. If a department provides protective eyewear fitted with prescription lenses, the department is not responsible for costs associated with eye exams.
- Contact lenses and prescription glasses do not provide eye protection in the industrial sense and must not be worn in a hazardous environment without addition of the appropriate safety eyewear.
- Caution should be exercised in the use of metal frame protective devices in electrical hazard areas.
- Welding helmets should be used in conjunction with safety spectacles (equipped with side shields).
- See the UNL Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan for face and eye protection and other personal protective equipment relative to potential exposures to bloodborne pathogens.

Cleaning

- Goggles may require frequent cleansing to minimizing fogging.
- Eye and face protection equipment that has been previously used should be cleaned upon obvious contamination, after each work shift, and prior to use by another employee. Soap and water cleaning is generally acceptable, coupled with germicidal cleaning if biological agents are of concern or if PPE is being shared by employees.

Maintenance and Storage

- PPE must be used and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition.
- The use of equipment with structural or optical defects is prohibited.
- Goggles should be kept in a case when not in use. Spectacles, in particular, should be given the same care as one's own glasses, since the frame, nose pads, and temples can be damaged by rough usage.
- Items should be placed in a clean, dust-proof container, such as a box, bag, or plastic envelope, to protect them while in storage.