

APPENDIX A – EYE/FACE PROTECTION

If your work exposes your eyes to hazards such as dust/chemicals; the risk of impact with materials or flying debris; exposure to lasers/welders flash/or radiant energy from kilns, etc., you must wear safety eyewear/face protection. This requirement also applies to workers who wear prescription glasses or contact lenses. Regular prescription glasses or contact lenses are not a substitute as safety eyewear.

EYEWEAR OPTIONS:

Your safety eyewear and face protection must have markings indicating that they meet CSA Z94.3 or ANSI Z87 requirements. The two main choices for workers who wear prescription glasses or contact lenses are:

- Wearing non-prescription safety eyewear (goggles or goggles) over your own prescription glasses or contact lenses
- Wearing prescription safety eyewear
- Wearing a full face shield

In order to determine which options are appropriate for you, your employer must assess the hazards of your workplace and your job.

Here are some key factors for consideration:

- If you are exposed to hazards from the side, your safety eyewear must have side shields or wraparound arms.
- If there is a risk of injury to other parts of your face, you must wear a face shield over your safety eyewear.
- If you work in dry, dusty, or chemically charged environments, contact lenses may not be suitable, even when worn with safety eyewear.
- If you are exposed to radiant energy or laser light radiation from welding, kilns or lasers, glasses must have the proper shading or optical density for the energy you are being exposed to.



Wearing safety eyewear over your prescription glasses or contact lenses is one way to protect your eyes from injury.

REQUIREMENTS:

All employees or students must wear appropriate eye protection when performing any task that may be harmful to the eye including but not limited to the following (MB Reg. 217/06 Part 6, Section 6.13(1&2)):

- Using hand or power tools; grinding or chipping; compressed air; buffing; machine operation;
- Using flammable, toxic or corrosive material; spray finishing or priming; welding, soldering, cutting or brazing; dusty environments, etc.

CLEANING, MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF EYEWEAR:

- Clean daily. Cleaning can be as simple as rinsing under cool water to remove debris then drying with a soft cloth.
- Use lens cleaner regularly. While water can be an easy way to clean safety glasses, lens cleaners can help remove residue that water cannot. Never use soap, which can leave a residue on glasses.
- Avoid abrasive cleaners or rough cloths. These can scratch lenses.
- The best option for storing glasses is in a hard case or microfiber pouch.
- Use a retention strap when jobs allow for glasses to be removed periodically.
- Replace when necessary. Damaged or scratched safety glasses pose a safety hazard and should be replaced. When lenses are scratched, vision becomes impaired and strains eyes. When glasses are damaged, they may lose their ability to protect as they should.

WHO PAYS FOR SAFETY EYEWEAR?

Employers must provide and pay for non-prescription safety eyewear but are not required to pay for prescription safety eyewear.

