

# Safety Alert

## EYE PROTECTION

Issue Date: 12 January 2018

### Context:

So much of what we do and how we operate in our environment depends on our ability to see. Loss of sight can therefore be a devastating experience. The eye is one of the most sensitive and delicate organs in the body and can be injured very easily. Foreign objects can be irritating, and cause a great deal of pain and significant damage.

**Notify your Supervisor and seek first aid/eye wash station immediately if an eye injury occurs**

### Hazards:

- Using or decanting chemicals
- Painting/varnishing
- Welding or oxy cutting e.g. welders flash
- Dust and airborne particles
- Blows from objects by impact
- UV light from the sun
- Fumes
- Grinding or sanding works
- Work using power tools
- Pressure cleaning activities
- Using compressed air



**Fig 1: Where this sign is displayed compliant eye protection must be worn**

### Action Required:

- Be alert to the eye hazards present at your worksite
- Always follow mandated site/area signage for personal protective equipment, including eye protection
- Refer to manufacturers equipment operation manuals and chemical/paint safety data sheet for instruction with regard to eye protection requirements
- Review and update task specific SWMS considering need for personal protective equipment, including eye protection for workers and those in adjacent areas - ensure the maximum degree of eye protection is provided
- Consider the need for protecting people who are working nearby or passing close to hazardous areas, should the area be secured prior to works or warning signage required
- As required wear the appropriate protective eyewear for the task/work area, this may include: clear or tinted glasses, goggles, hood, face shield or welding helmet
- Remember that prescription or regular eyeglasses/contact lenses will not protect you from eye hazards
- If you must wear prescription eyeglasses; you must either wear prescription safety glasses or protective over glasses, that comply with AS/NZS 1337
- Check that your protective eyewear meets Australian Standards, this will be printed on eyewear (see overleaf)
- Make sure that your protective eyewear fits properly, is clean and in good condition before and after each use
- Replace faulty eyewear immediately
- Know where all eyewash stations and emergency equipment is located
- In the event of eye injury, seek first aid/medical attention immediately

**Eye protection must worn whenever there is risk of flying Particles, dust, fumes, radiation, chemicals or other substances contacting your eye or face**

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### First Aid/Medical Attention:

The eye tries to flush the foreign object out by producing tears. If this is not successful you may:

- Try to irrigate the eye by using clean water from an eye wash station, potable eye wash water or cold water
- Never use your sleeve or glove to wipe foreign objects from your face or eye region
- Notify your Supervisor immediately if an eye injury occurs

### Compliant Eye Protection:

Safety glasses **must be** compliant with Australian Standard AS/NZS 1337.1. The way to check if your glasses are compliant is by looking on the inside arm of the safety glasses for the AS/NZS quality assurance mark.

### Regular prescription glasses will not afford adequate eye protection for many tasks

If your prescription glasses do not meet AS/NZS 1337 they will need to be replaced with compliant prescription safety glasses or protective compliant, over glasses are to be worn over the top of the prescription glasses

		
<p><b>Fig 2:</b> Prescription Safety glasses (note side shield)</p>	<p><b>Fig 3:</b> Over glasses</p>	<p><b>Fig 4:</b> Compliant safety glasses will have quality assurance mark on inside arm</p>

### Recommended Minimum Eye/Face Protection:

Refer to AS/NZS 1336, Tables 4.1 and 4.2 for more detailed guidance on selection of eye protection. A summary of frequent construction/demolition activities are shown below:

TASK	RECOMMENDED MINIMUM PPE
Welding	Welding helmet/shield
Oxy cutting	Face shield over dark safety glasses or goggles
Grinding	Face shield over safety glasses or goggles
Drilling	Safety glasses
Chipping/Scrabbing	Face shield over safety glasses or goggles
Using Chemicals	Recommended minimum is safety glasses, refer to chemical safety data sheet for more specific information
Painting (brush/roller)	Recommended minimum is safety glasses, refer to chemical safety data sheet for more specific information
Painting (spray application)	Recommended minimum is safety goggles, refer to chemical safety data sheet for more specific information
Using compressed air	Face shield over safety glasses or goggles

### Further Information:

- AS/NZS 1336 Recommended practices for occupational eye protection
- AS/NZS 1337 Eye protectors for industrial applications
- AS/NZS 1338 Filters for eye protectors
- AS/NZS 1338.1 Filters for protection against radiation generated in welding and allied operations
- AS/NZS 1338.2 Filters for protection against ultraviolet radiation
- AS/NZS 1338.3 Filters for protection against infra-red radiation
- AS 1067.1 Sunglasses and fashion spectacles : Part 1 - Safety requirements
- AS 1067.2 Sunglasses and fashion spectacles : Part 2 - Performance requirements