





# Industrial Eyewear Newsletter

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**Essilor Laboratories of America's Industrial Eyewear Newsletter** is designed to keep customers and eyecare providers well informed about new products, changes in ANSI Standards, and technical and legal developments in safety eyewear. We appreciate your business and invite you to direct comments, ideas and requests to **Essilor Laboratories of America, Industrial Eyewear Newsletter**, (800) 346-1338, Extension 253, or FAX your information to: (800) 347-8695, or e-mail to: [jeimer@essilorusa.com](mailto:jeimer@essilorusa.com).

Summer 2001

Volume 3

## From the Director



Technological advancements in eyewear fabrication have not been lost with regard to prescription safety eyewear! Dramatic improvements in lens and frame materials and in production technologies have contributed to enhanced visual comfort and cosmetic benefits for your employees. While reaching these improvements, all was done with the most important aspect in mind: **meeting or exceeding all applicable safety standards**. Essilor Laboratories is very proud of our ongoing employment of these improving technologies and of our commitment to provide you with the highest quality safety eyewear quickly and competitively.

Having been with Essilor of America for many years, I have recently accepted responsibility for Essilor Laboratories Industrial Sales. My promise is to continue providing you with the very best in products and service. Essilor's safety services are provided to you through a dedicated, knowledgeable group of people whose sole purpose is serving your prescription safety eyewear needs. I look forward to this exciting and enjoyable opportunity and send a heartfelt **Thank You** for your confidence in Essilor Laboratories Industrial Eyewear.

Wishing all a very prosperous and successful 2001 and beyond!

Warm regards,

Jeff Anderson

Vice President, Essilor Laboratories Industrial Sales

## Guidelines for the Use of Contact Lenses in Industrial Environments

Anthony P. Cullen, MSc, O.D., Ph.D., DSc, FCOptom, F.A.A.O.

*Reprinted with permission from the American Optometric Association*

The American Optometric Association has adopted the following policy statement concerning the use of contact lenses in industrial environments:

**"Contact lenses may be worn in some hazardous environments with appropriate covering safety eyewear. Contact lenses of themselves do not provide eye protection in the industrial sense."**

Most successful contact lens wearers wish to wear their contact lenses in all aspects of their lives, including the workplace. This may conflict with government or industry imposed restrictions on the use of contact lenses in a given industrial environment. These restrictions, in turn, may be unreasonable and discriminatory.

In risk management it is necessary to balance risk with benefits and to differentiate perceived risk from actual risk. Because both contact lens or certain environments may produce adverse ocular effects it is tempting to assume that there may be additive or synergistic effects when contact lenses are worn in that environment. When considering the advisability of wearing contact lenses in a given industrial setting a number of questions should be addressed:

- Is there an actual hazard?
- Does the wearing of contact lenses place the eye at greater risk than a naked eye?
- Does removal of the contact lens increase the risk to the eye, the wearer or co-workers?
- Is the risk different for various contact lens materials and designs?
- Are there other risks to the wearer or co-workers?
- Do contact lenses decrease the efficacy of other safety strategies?

Ocular hazards are greater in some occupations than others. Those who prescribe contact lenses for industrial workers should be concerned as to the advisability of wearing the lenses in a given

*continued inside*

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## First Aid for Eye Emergencies

Reprinted with permission from  
Prevent Blindness America

### Specks in the Eye

- DO lift upper eyelid outward and down over the lower lid.
- DO let tears wash out speck or particle, or use an eye wash.
- DO—if the speck doesn't wash out—keep eye closed, bandage lightly and see a doctor.
- DO NOT rub the eye.

### Blows to the Eye

Prior to getting emergency medical care:

- DO gently apply small cold compresses without pressure immediately to reduce pain and swelling.
- DO seek emergency medical care in cases of pain, reduced vision or discoloration (black eye), which could mean internal damage to the eye.

### Cuts and Punctures of the Eye or Eyelid

- DO bandage lightly without pressure and see a doctor at once.
- DO NOT wash out the eye with water.
- DO NOT try to remove an object stuck in the eye.

To learn more about first aid for eye emergencies, contact Prevent Blindness America or the Prevent Blindness Affiliate near you.

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## ANSI Update...

We had once again hoped to bring you news about the revised ANSI Z87.1 standards, however, at press time the requirements for the new standards are still unresolved. We have heard that a final copy should be available by the end of 2001. We will keep you advised in coming issues of this newsletter.

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environment. The work type may influence the selection of lens material and design, and wearing the replacement schedules. The following factors may be of value in making these decisions:

- **The toxic chemicals and/or physical agents that may be encountered**
- **Raw material and by-products involved**
- **Potential for ocular exposure**
- **Protective equipment provided, available and used**
- **Hygiene facilities available**
- **Presence or absence of health and safety personnel**
- **Factors that may influence compliance with cleaning and wearing schedules**

An evaluation of the published material, including laboratory and human studies, and well documented case reports, indicates that contact lenses may be worn safely under a variety of environmental situations including those which, from a superficial evaluation, might appear hazardous. Indeed, some types of contact lenses may give added protection to spectacle lens and non-spectacle lens wearers in instances of certain fume exposure, chemical splash, dust, flying particles and optical radiation. The evidence also refutes the claims that contact lenses negate the protection provided by safety equipment or make the cornea more susceptible to damage by optical radiation, in particular arc flashes. Thus a universal ban of contact lenses in the workplace or other environments is unwarranted.

Regulations limiting the wearing of contact lenses in any given circumstance must be scientifically defensible and effectively enforceable. They should not be based on perceived hazards, random experience, isolated unverified case histories or unsubstantiated personal opinions. Conversely, it would be imprudent for a practitioner to prescribe contact lenses in order to circumvent uncorrected visual acuity standards in those occupations where individuals may be required to function without correction on some occasions or in environments contraindicated for the type of lens prescribed.

All practitioners must stress that personal protective equipment, including safety eyewear, is not replaced by contact lenses.

Where circumstances create the necessity eye protection must be worn.

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## Essilor Lens Cleaner

The Essilor Industrial Eyewear Division now offers pre-moistened towelette lens cleaners. These "one time use" towelettes will effectively clean coated and uncoated lenses without streaking. They can also be safely used on anti-reflective coated lenses without causing damage to the coating. Each individual packet contains one pre-moistened towelette.

Simply remove the folded tissue and lightly brush away any particles from the lens surface. The lens can then be cleaned thoroughly with the unfolded towelette by wiping in a side to

side motion. The surface of the lens will dry instantly. A handy wall dispenser is offered so employees have access to the towelettes as needed.

The Essilor Lens Cleaner Dispenser includes two boxes of towelettes and is offered for \$38.95. A refill box containing 60 towelettes per box is offered at \$8.95. Please call your laboratory or your Essilor Industrial Eyewear Sales Representative to order this product for your company.



## Focus on service



**Bridgette Jones** (Outside Rep) has been involved with Essilor Industrial Eyewear for more than nine years. Previously, Bridgette held a position as an ophthalmic sales representative, calling on eyecare professionals for dress eyewear products. She believes the experience and knowledge she gained in that role helps her today in developing safety eyewear programs for industrial customers. Bridgette finds her job both challenging and rewarding ~ and takes pride in being a knowledgeable and helpful vendor representative to her customers. Bridgette can be reached at (800) 346-1338, Ext. 1316, or by email: [bjones@essilorusa.com](mailto:bjones@essilorusa.com).



**John Black** has been an Inside Sales Representative for Essilor Industrial Eyewear for three years. Previously, John spent thirteen years working directly in other industrial related fields in inside and outside sales and as regional sales manager. John enjoys working with customers and developing strong business relationships. He plans to continue in the safety eyewear field and to eventually become involved with sports vision safety ~ a goal arising from his interests in all types of sports including football, baseball, golf, fishing and hunting. John can be reached at (800) 346-1338, Ext. 1230, or by e-mail: [jblack@essilorusa.com](mailto:jblack@essilorusa.com)

Bridgette and John's territory includes Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Arkansas and Mississippi. Bridgette and John earned the Essilor Presidents Club Award in 2000.

## Essilor Industrial Division Appoints Two New Positions



**Tom Slanga** was appointed Industrial District Sales Manager for the Western Region of the Essilor Industrial Eyewear Division in January. This year will mark his 30th year in the optical industry ~ with 13 years of industrial eyewear sales experience in laboratory sales and customer service and more than 15 years of optical dispensing and retail management. His achievements include the Essilor Presidents Club (1999) and Sales Consultant of the Year (1995) for Twin City Optical. Certified by the American Board of Opticianry in 1973, Tom has recently been approved as a speaker for the ABOC. He has also written and delivered two hours of ABO Certified Education for Eyecare Professionals relating to safety eyewear and "visual ergonomics" for the safety patient. Tom takes pride in bringing the very best products to safety customers. His safety team knows that *communication between the laboratory, eyecare professionals and safety specialists* is the key to trouble-free programs. His motto is "Your program won't work for us until it works for you!" Tom can be reached at (800) 328-4912, Ext. 2107, or by e-mail at [tslanga@essilorusa.com](mailto:tslanga@essilorusa.com)



**Gary Keen** joined the Essilor Industrial Eyewear Division in January as the Industrial District Sales Manager for the Eastern Region. Previously, Gary enjoyed a 10-year sales career in prescription safety eyewear and other areas of industrial safety. He received his American Board of Opticianry Certification in 1993 and is a certified speaker for the ABOC. Gary brings a broad perspective to his new position and understands the importance of creating and implementing the right eye protection program for each industrial customer. In sales management for several years, Gary is "happy to be on board with the best safety team in the country." Gary Keen can be reached at (800) 346-1338, Ext. 1314, or by e-mail: [gkeen@essilorusa.com](mailto:gkeen@essilorusa.com).

## Did You Know...

Many information and training videos concerning eye injuries and related topics are readily available for rent or purchase. Some may be rented from the Essilor Industrial Eyewear Division and others may be purchased directly from companies listed at the end of this article. Below is a selection of some of the available videos and where they can be obtained.

### "In the Blink of an Eye".....\$96.00

Prevent Blindness America. Exciting 11 minute video featuring Richard Karn, who portrays Al Borland on "Home Improvement." Includes discussion guide and poster.

### "Protective Eyewear..."

**A Vision of Safety by Titmus" .....**\$15.00  
Includes 100 Brochures

### "Your Eyes are at Risk...Consumer

**Awareness by Titmus" .....**\$15.00

**"Don't Push Your Luck" Rent/Essilor**

**"Protect Your Eyes on the Job" Rent/Essilor**

**"Saving Sight" Rent/Essilor**

### "Eye Injuries" .....\$79.95

**Safety Shorts:** Graphic video depicting various eye injuries.

### "Slag Injuries to the Eye" .....\$79.95

**Safety Shorts:** When thrown into the eye, even the smallest particle can do damage.

### "Flashburn" .....\$79.95

**Safety Shorts:** Flashburn caused by an arc welder can damage cornea.

### "Lasers" .....\$79.95

**Safety Shorts:** Today, lasers are virtually everywhere. Find out how to safely work with lasers and protect your eyes.

**Prevent Blindness video can be ordered directly from Prevent Blindness America at: [www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org) or 800-331-2020.**

**Titmus videos can be ordered direct through our sales office at 800-346-1338.**

**Safety Shorts videos can be ordered directly from Safety Shorts at: [www.safetyshorts.com](http://www.safetyshorts.com) or 800-458-2236.**

**Some of the above videos are available for preview. Please call 800-346-1338 for availability.**