



Not Having a Prescription Safety Eyewear Program Could Be Hazardous To Your Bottom Line...*details inside!*

Test your knowledge

Congratulations to **W. Scott Davies from Whelpley & Paul Inc. in Victor, New York**, for correctly answering the following questions from our last newsletter:

1) Light from a laser can cause eye damage. TRUE

The lens system of the eye focuses the laser beam causing damage to the retina. Many different types of lasers of varied intensities are available on the market today. For specific information on lasers and laser protection, please refer to ANSI Z136.1 standards.

2) Secondary protectors can be used alone when primary protection is required. FALSE

A wide variety of other eye protectors are available. Some are considered primary, some secondary, and some are primary protectors that can be worn with any other primary protector. For example, safety glasses are considered primary protectors as long as they meet testing requirements and can be worn alone. Faceshields are considered secondary protectors and can be used with primary protectors. Welding helmets are considered secondary protectors and are used with primary protectors. For specific information on lasers and laser protection, please refer to ANSI Z87.1-1989 Section 6. General Types of Eye and Face Protectors.

3) Dust and chemicals are an additional hazard to contact lens wearers. TRUE

Although contact lenses assist the wearer in seeing more clearly, they may pose a hazard in an industrial setting. If the employee works in a dusty setting, particles can get trapped between the contact lens and the eye. If the work environment entails regular exposure to chemicals, vapors, splashes, etc., contact lenses should be restricted accordingly.

4) Safety glasses are not unbreakable or shatterproof. TRUE

Although safety glasses meet rigorous testing to withstand impact, they

are still breakable and can "shatter." Lenses and frames may break under extreme impact but are designed to break in a way that minimizes injury. Proper care of safety glasses greatly reduces the risk of breakage. Industrial lenses are tested and designed to break in "pieces" or "chunks" to reduce the risk of injury. Frames distorted by pressure should also be replaced, as the joints may be weakened.

5) Scratched or pitted lenses should be replaced immediately. TRUE

Scratched or pitted glass lenses have reduced vision clarity and little or no impact resistance. Polycarbonate or plastic lenses are affected very little from scratches or pits in respect to impact resistance. Polycarbonate lenses are always recommended in high impact areas, because of their flexibility. In all lens materials, however, scratches and pits can reduce vision clarity which may cause injury in other ways.

Answer the next set of questions correctly and your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to your favorite store or restaurant. Mail answers on your company letterhead to Essilor Laboratories of America, Industrial Eyewear, or fax to: **(800) 347-8695, before May 15th**. Please include your name, telephone number and shipping address.

- 1) Industrial safety glasses can also be used for athletic sport protection.**
- 2) An employee can get an "Eagle Eye Award" through Prevent Blindness America if they are wearing safety glasses and an eye injury is prevented.**
- 3) Safety glasses should not be used for home maintenance.**
- 4) Regular glasses worn for every day with polycarbonate lenses are considered safety glasses.**
- 5) Using a computer terminal won't damage your eyes.**



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: **jreimer@essilorusa.com.**

Spring 2001

Volume 2

Hidden Costs of Eye Injuries

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Not Having a Prescription Safety Eyewear Program Could Be Hazardous To Your Bottom Line!

Why have an eye safety program?

The law says you must have an eye safety program if there are any dangers of flying particles. Then there are the costs that could be incurred as a result of an injury. Since most businesses operate in hopes of generating a profit, controlling expenses is one way of helping to increase the overall profitability of a company.

First, there are the insured costs:

- Insurance premiums: health care, disability, and property damage
- Worker's compensation

But there are also "hidden" costs. You must consider the total cost of an injury, not just the ones you can readily identify.

The uninsured (hidden) costs:

- Wages paid for time lost by the uninjured workers
- Cost of damage to material and equipment
- Cost of wages paid for time lost by the injured worker other than that paid by worker's compensation
- Extra cost of overtime work necessitated by the accident
- Cost of wages paid to the supervisors for time spent on the activities concerning the accident
- Wage cost caused by decreased output of injured worker after return to work
- Cost of learning period of new replacement worker
- Uninsured medical cost borne by the company (those caring for the injured worker)
- Cost of time spent by management and clerical workers on investigations or in the processing of compensation application forms
- Other costs, such as equipment rental, contracts lost, bonus loss, litigation

There's no doubt about it ~ an effective eye safety program will definitely help to minimize your worker's compensation claims. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the average cost of a disabling eye injury at \$2,949 in indemnity compensation and \$994 for medical payments ~ a total of \$3,943. This results in a total cost to American industry of \$354,870,000 per year. This figure does not include other indirect costs that were identified in the list above.

The cost of the average prescription safety glasses is approximately \$65. That means 60 employees could be provided with prescription safety glasses for the "unhidden" costs of just one eye injury!

What the law says about it

As part of the OSHA audit process, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) programs are evaluated in terms of compliance to the established standards. If a company's safety program is not being administrated correctly, the OSHA inspector has the ability to impose fines for non-compliance. These fines directly effect the bottom line of a business and are especially annoying because they could all be avoided with the proper safety programs.

The OSHA regulation you should refer to for a better understanding of the law is 29CFR1910.133. See the Titmus Guide for the Employer for a personal copy.

Continued

Did You Know...

There's been quite a stir recently about several versions of universal side shields currently on the market. One popular universal side shield with a rubber band attachment is stamped Z87 and is being advertised as ANSI and OSHA approved. One of these side shield manufacturers has said their side shields meet ANSI requirements and that they will accept liability in the event of an injury. To date, however, we are uncertain as to whether the same manufacturer will accept liability for injuries involving other parts of the frame. Frame manufacturers ~ Titmus, On-Guard, Hudson and all others we distribute ~ test frames and frame components to make certain they meet all ANSI requirements. These frame manufacturers also do not accept liability for other manufacturer's products used with their frames. As a result, the individual or company dispensing universal side shields may be liable in the event of an injury.

TRADE SHOW AGENDA

APRIL 16 - 18

Hoosier Safety Council
Indianapolis, IN • Exhibiting - Booth 38

APRIL 17 - 18

Michigan Safety Conference
Lansing, MI • Exhibiting - Booth 125

APRIL 24 - 25

Wisconsin Safety & Health Congress Expo
Madison, WI • Exhibiting - Booth 328

APRIL 25 - 27

South Carolina Occupational Safety
Council Kingston, SC • Exhibiting

MAY 2 - 3

Minnesota Safety & Health Conference
Minneapolis, MN • Exhibiting • Booth 268

MAY 8 - 11

Mid-America Safety, Health &
Environmental Conference and Exposition
Osage Beach, MO • Exhibiting

MAY 9 - 10

North Carolina Statewide Safety Conf.
Greensboro, NC • Exhibiting - Booth 50

MAY 8 - 11

Kentucky Governor's Safety & Health
Conference and Exposition
Louisville, KY • Exhibiting - Booth 64

JUNE 1-3

Sports Vision 2001
International Academy of Sports Vision
Las Vegas, NV • Exhibiting

Continued from cover

Understanding the ANSI Z87 standards

So often, employees are found to be wearing dress frames with polycarbonate lenses. Then they find a pair of side shields that appear to fit the frame thinking that they are meeting OSHA's requirements. The OSHA regulations refer to the ANSI Z87 standards for eye and face protection.

Frames, lenses, and shields are all tested to ensure they meet the ANSI Z87 standards. Side shields are designed to provide impact resistance with the intention of protecting the wearer. The shields are shot while on the frame, which is mounted to a head form with a 1/4 steel ball at a speed of 150 feet per second while the frame is turned at different angles. If the shields are not designed to properly fit the frame, they may suffer fractures or even break.

Safety lenses are specifically manufactured and tested to meet ANSI Z87 safety requirements. Both plano (non-prescription) and prescription lenses must meet those requirements before they can be monogrammed with the manufacturer's logo. The logo, which identifies the manufacturer (laboratory), shows that the lenses meet the required ANSI standards.

An added benefit

Another benefit to having an eye safety program is that safety programs are very important to the well being of employees. It is human nature to avoid causing harm or injury to ourselves. For this reason, companies that promote and advocate safety create a feeling among workers that they care about their personal health and well being. Aside from all of the previously mentioned reasons for establishing an eye safety program, it is the law!

The above information was provided to the Eye Protection Council by Titmus Optical, Inc., 3811 Corporate Drive, Petersburg, VA 23805
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The following letter was submitted by Charlie Messenheimer, Safety Director, WyoDak Coal Mine, Gillette, Wyoming, and reprinted with his permission.

February 1, 2001

I'm writing to thank you for telling me about the TD2® scratch resistant coating.

Working in a surface coal mine in Wyoming can be hard on safety glasses. Coal dust is abrasive and the ever present Wyoming breeze does not help matters. We go through quite a few pairs of safety glasses, both in the prescription and non-prescription.

I have an employee in the maintenance department that seems to go through more lenses than most. He is very active and is most always welding, cutting, grinding or turning wrenches. He wears his safety glasses until you can barely see through the scratches and pitting. But not any longer!

In April of 2000, we purchased a new pair of prescription safety glasses for him. And this time, we asked for the TD2® coating that you had recommended. I just looked at his glasses today and the lens are just as scratch free as they were when new.

He says this pair has survived far longer than any pair of safety glasses he has ever had. Even asked me if he could get this coating for his every day glasses.

Thanks for a great product!

Charlie Messenheimer, Safety Director
Wyodak Coal Mine
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charlie@wyodak.com

Focus on service



Victoria Neiman (outside rep) has been involved with Safety Eyewear for more than five years. Victoria likes working with customers "who have their employees safety and best interests at heart." Although she has no formal training in safety, Victoria offers valuable hands-on experience to her customers. She hopes to obtain her ABO certification in the near future to better guide customers in making educated decisions. Victoria can be reached at (800) 346-1338, Ext. 304 or by email: vneiman@essilorusa.com.



Jay Wolter (inside rep) enjoys "figuring out solutions to problems." Whether it's the challenge of creating a unique safety program, answering computer questions or pitching in to complete a large project ~ Jay enjoys all aspects of his job. Jay is currently receiving training to design and maintain a website that allows industrial customers to access safety eyewear programs more easily. Jay can be reached at (800) 346-1338, Ext. 335 or by email: jwolter@essilorusa.com.

Victoria and Jay's territory includes North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Choosing Transitions® Lenses

New clinical research demonstrates that, given the choice, three out of four satisfied clear lens wearers actually prefer Transitions® for superior visual comfort...indoors or outdoors.

Transitions® lenses are the plastic or polycarbonate lenses that darken when the wearer goes outdoors and lightens as the wearer comes indoors. UV light from the sun causes the lenses to change from virtually clear indoors to a darker tint outdoors. Transitions® can fit all frame styles and are available in a wide range of prescriptions.

Transitions® lenses are also compatible with Crizal® anti-reflective coating. Crizal® reduces reflections ~ especially the glare of night driving. With the addition of Crizal®, the Transitions® lenses appear even clearer indoors.

Transitions® offers the largest variety of lens materials to fit almost any prescription. The gray changes from virtually clear indoors to dark gray outdoors. The brown changes from virtually clear indoors to warm brown tint outdoors for higher-contrast performance. Transitions® XTRActive™ offers a slightly darker indoor/outdoor tint, for a lightweight alternative to glass variable tint lenses.

Transitions® offers comfort, UV protection and versatility.

The current **American National Standard - Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection (ANSI Z87.1-1989)** states, "...**photochromic lenses should be used with care in operations requiring critical acuity, or fast reaction to visual stimuli, particularly in operations where the wearer passes from outdoors to indoors in the course of the job; for example, a forklift operator passing from outdoors to indoors.**"

The use of photochromic lenses, better known as Transitions® or Photogray glass, in an industrial environment is left entirely up to the management of the plant or as mandated by your state's OSHA.

For more information about Transitions® visit www.transitions.com.

Transitions®

Lenses that are right in any light

Coming to Terms

Below is a list of common optical terms that appear on our price list:

Factory Scratch-Resistant Coating
Applied to plastic lenses, factory scratch-resistant coating protects lenses from everyday wear and tear. Polycarbonate lenses include scratch resistant coating.

TD2® Coating

A premium scratch -resistant coating applied to plastic and polycarbonate lenses, TD2® is superior to factory scratch-resistant coating. Industrial lenses coated with TD2® are warranted against scratching on both sides for one year.

Crizal® Coating

A premium anti-reflective coating applied to polycarbonate and plastic lenses, Crizal® is more scratch-resistant than other coating technologies and easier to keep clean.

Anti-Reflective Coating

Anti-Reflective Coating ~ or AR Coating ~ helps to reduce eye fatigue. AR Coating eliminates distracting reflections on the lenses and is very useful for computer screen viewing or night driving.

UV Treatment

UV treatment is applied to the lens to shield the eyes from harmful ultra violet rays. UV can be applied to plastic and glass lenses. Polycarbonate lenses include UV protection in the lens material.

Solid Tint

A solid tint is a fixed tint that always stays the same shade. Most lenses can be tinted from light to very dark. Darker tints greatly restrict illumination and are not recommended for indoor use in an industrial work place.

Gradient Tint

A gradient tint is also a fixed tint but is darker at the top of the lens and fades to lighter or clear at the bottom.

ANSI Update...

We had hoped to bring you news about the ANSI Z87.1 standards, however, at press time the requirements for the new standards are still unresolved. Although it is still unlikely that additional changes will be considered, all users of safety prescription eyeglasses should continue to be aware of the most significant differences contained in the proposed draft. We will keep you advised in coming issues of this newsletter.