

Test your knowledge

Congratulations to **Paul Glass, M.D., Tucker, GA**, for answering the following questions from our last newsletter correctly and winning a \$25 gift certificate to his favorite store or restaurant.

1) All lens styles (single vision, bifocals, etc.) are available for safety glasses. TRUE

All lenses used by manufacturing laboratories are the same for dress and safety glasses. The only difference is the process used to meet the minimum thickness required by ANSI Z87 standards for safety glasses. Any lens style is available in prescription safety glasses.

2) Any employee working with electricity should always select a metal or wire safety frame. FALSE

Metal or wire frames will conduct electricity and should be used on a limited basis. Each company must evaluate the potential for an electrical hazard and determine whether these frames can be used safely in the work environment.

3) More eye injuries occur from frontal impact than impact from behind. FALSE

According to a Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics study, 94% of injuries to employees who were wearing eye protection resulted from objects or caustics going around or under the protection. This statistic supports the recommendation that sideshields should be worn on ALL safety glasses where there is a hazard for flying objects.

4) All sideshields come with top and side protection. FALSE

Some sideshields come with only side protection or top and side protection. Please refer to the manufacturer's frame and sideshield

chart for exact styles. When possible, select safety glasses that come with both top and side protection sideshields.

5) ANSI standards state "Employees must be trained on the inspection and maintenance of safety glasses." TRUE

According to an ISEA Washington Report* on training, "The employer must provide training to each employee required to use PPE. Training will include when PPE is necessary; what PPE is necessary; how to wear and adjust PPE; and the proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of the PPE. Employees must demonstrate an understanding of the training and the ability to use PPE properly." The employer has to certify in writing that the employee has received and understands the training.

*ISEA Washington Report, April 7, 1994, "Analysis of OSHA's Personal Protective Equipment," Rule/29 CFR Part 1910, Subpart I/General Requirements: Training.

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 February 1st**. Please include your name, telephone number and shipping address.

- 1) **Light from a laser can cause eye damage.**
- 2) **Secondary protectors can be used alone when primary protection is required.**
- 3) **Dust and chemicals are an additional hazard to contact lens wearers.**
- 4) **Safety glasses are not unbreakable or shatterproof.**
- 5) **Scratched or pitted lenses should be replaced immediately.**

Test Your Knowledge winner inside!
..along with more timely and valuable articles of interest
to industrial customers and eyecare providers.



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.**

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The millennium is upon us

As 2001 marks the official beginning of the next millennium, we wish all of our customers prosperity and continued success in the coming year and beyond. We had hoped to bring you news about the ANSI Z87.1 standards, however, at press time the requirements for the new standards appear unresolved. Although it is still unlikely that additional changes will be considered, all manufacturers 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.

Care of Prescription Safety Eyeglasses

Excerpted from ISEA Washington Report, April 7, 1994

Government Activities Affecting Safety Equipment Manufacturers

In 1994, nearly five years after its original proposal, OSHA published revised general industry standards for personal protective equipment (PPE), Subpart I of 29 CFR Part 1910. These standards established general requirements for the selection and use of PPE, and specific requirements for eye and face, head, foot and hand protection. A summary of the portion that pertains to eyeglasses is as follows:

Eye and Face Protection. Employees must use appropriate eye or face protection when exposed to eye or face hazards from flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gasses or vapors, or potentially injurious light radiation. Protective eye and face devices must comply with current ANSI regulations. Side shields are required only when there is a hazard from flying objects. Employees who require prescription lenses must wear prescription safety glasses or eye protection that can be worn over the glasses. Filter lenses must be appropriate to the work being performed. Marking to identify the manufacturer is also required.

General Requirements. Hazard Assessment. Employers must assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present, or likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment.

Equipment Selection. If such hazards are present, or likely to be present, the employer shall select, and have each affected employee use the types of PPE that will protect against the identified hazards. PPE must properly fit each affected employee and the employer shall verify the hazard assessment in writing. Damaged or defective PPE shall not be used.

Training. The employer must provide training to each employee required to use PPE. Training will include when PPE is necessary; what PPE is necessary; how to wear and adjust PPE, and the proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of the PPE. Employees must demonstrate an understanding of the training, and the ability to use PPE properly. The employer has to certify in writing that the employee has received and understands the training.

Essilor Industrial Eyewear offers the following guidelines to assist you with this training:

Alignment. Keep your eyeglasses properly aligned and fitted to promote proper vision. Proper alignment and fit will make your eyeglasses more comfortable.

Cleaning. Wipe your lenses carefully and not in circles, which may trap dirt and cause scratches. Flush lenses with clean water before wiping, or risk grinding dirt and grit into the lens. Use special tissues and cleaners and follow product directions. Use a mild liquid soap periodically to remove dirt and oils. Avoid commercial window glass

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cleaners. They may damage lenses, coatings and frames. Never use your shirt to clean your glasses. Dirt and particles trapped in the shirt fibers can scratch your lenses.

Wearing and Storage. Use both of your hands to remove your eyeglasses. Using one hand to remove glasses may cause alignment problems, discomfort and even impair vision. Store glasses in a clean case whenever possible, or, with temples open, lay glasses on a hard surface upside down, with temples pointing up. Make certain your glasses are resting securely on the top of the frame ~ never on a hard surface with lenses down.

If you would like a poster stating the steps for maintaining prescription safety eyewear to use in your office or facility, please contact the Essilor Industrial Eyewear Hotline at **1-800-346-1338, Ext. 253.**

Did You Know...

For maximum protection, welders should always wear a face shield with the proper lens shade protection required for the type of welding done. Welders who request prescription lenses are provided Green 3 Glass lenses, which offer limited UV and infrared protection. Most prescription lenses are not uniform in thickness, which will cause the Green 3 Glass tint to vary across the lens. This irregular tint is why the lab does not monogram the lenses with a shade number. Green 3 Glass lenses should only be used for torch soldering or light brazing. Welders should always wear additional protection when gas or electric arc welding.

TRADE SHOW AGENDA

JANUARY 10

West Michigan Safety Council
Michigan
Exhibiting

FEBRUARY 7-9

South Dakota Safety Council
South Dakota
Exhibiting

MARCH 27-30

Western Pennsylvania Safety Council
Pennsylvania
Exhibiting

Do you need an eye examination if you are not aware of any eye problems?

Paul F. Vinger, M.D.

Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, Tufts University School of Medicine

The need for an immediate examination is obvious if there are signs and/or symptoms—such as a crossed eye, a pupil that "looks funny", decreasing vision, light flashes, eye pain, a red eye, or double vision—that may indicate serious eye or systemic (i.e., affecting the whole body) disease. **But, what is the importance of an eye examination when there are absolutely no eye signs or symptoms?**

Routine eye exams are important because they can reveal potentially blinding eye disease and systemic disease in the early stages. **What is the bare minimum requirement?**

A child who has poor vision in one or both eyes has no reference to normal vision and therefore is not aware of any vision problems. The younger the child, the less able he or she is to communicate problems to the parent or physician. Yet the two most common childhood eye problems, strabismus and amblyopia, usually respond best to treatment if intervention is begun early in the preschool period. School vision screening tests require the child's understanding and cooperation and are more dependable as the child gets older—and past the age where strabismus and amblyopia are most successfully treated.

If no abnormalities in visual development have been noted by the pediatrician or parents, a complete eye examination is recommended at between two and a half and four years of age. Earlier examination, even before age one year, is prudent if an abnormality is suspected or if there is a family history of childhood eye disorders. A complete eye examination will detect potential problems, such as a difference in refraction between the eyes that could lead to amblyopia, and that might not be picked up in a well-child screening examination.

Most serious eye diseases in adults (such as glaucoma, early macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy) are diagnosed on routine eye examinations. If the disease is detected in the early stages, visual disability can be delayed or prevented with appropriate treatment. The routine eye examination may detect the first signs of systemic disease (diabetes, hypertension, neurologic disease) and also is a time to review the need to prevent blindness from injury. The eyecare professional can consider your work, hobby, and sports activities and recommend appropriate eye protection to minimize the chance of losing vision from trauma.

Although routine eye examinations are time consuming, and the need is not always obvious, they are important. The key times for a routine eye examination are between ages 1 and 4, before driving at approximately age 16, every two years after age 40, and every year after age 65.

Our Inside Sales Team

Essilor Industrial Eyewear has enjoyed enhanced customer communications by utilizing an Inside Sales Team to support our Outside Sales Team. Individuals from each team create pairs that keep in constant communication. This pairing is especially beneficial to customers with sales related questions requiring an immediate answer who are unable to reach their traveling Outside Sales Representative. At right, is a photograph of our Our Inside Sales Team.

Back (L-R): Wayne Grandaw (WI, IL, Upper Peninsula Michigan); John Black (AL, KY, TN); Tory Olson (MN, IA, CA, WA, OR); Robert Marcella. Front (L-R): Julie Blank (no longer with the company); Jay Wolter (NC, SC, VA, GA, FL); Jennifer Reimer, Eastern Manager; Anne Kress, Western Manager (KS, MO). Not pictured: Jennifer Zentmeyer (IN, MD); Holly Ayala (OH, PA, WV).



Allergic to Metal Frames? No Problem.

Today, titanium provides the ultimate lightweight material for safety frames. It is also very strong. However, most people buy titanium because of its hypo-allergenic properties. People who prefer metal frames but are allergic to nickel-steel, quite often find themselves with a limited menu of safety frame options. Also unfortunate is the fact that titanium doesn't fit everyone's safety budget.

Fortunately, times have changed for allergy sufferers. Several of our suppliers have released new frames in stainless steel (at about half of the cost of titanium) and some very stylish plastic models that are relatively inexpensive.

Stainless Steel

Although you can never be certain what material may cause an allergic reaction, stainless steel is a product that has nearly the same hypo-allergenic properties as titanium. Stainless steel is strong and a bit heavier, but paired with today's lightweight polycarbonate lenses and smaller lens sizes, it is a great alternative to titanium.

Plastic

Our manufacturers have responded to the growing demand for plastic frames with new styles that are very exciting from a marketing perspective. From the safety standpoint, plastic frames usually provide a closer fit to the face because of the lack of nose pads. They generally seal up a bit tighter to the cheeks and brows when side shields are used. Plastic frames are also great in the area of lens retention. The new plastic styles are an attractive option for those concerned about electrical conductivity.

We believe these new products will provide great solutions for many of the people we care about most ~ our safety eyewear customers. Just give us a call if you would like a peek at these exciting new products.

OSHA Recommends UV-Protective Sunwear for Outdoor Workers

Washington DC ~ The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued a pocket card on sun-exposure recommendations for outdoor workers, which includes the use of ultraviolet blocking sunwear. OSHA's Sun Card tells workers who spend time outdoors to protect themselves from harmful UV rays by wearing protective clothing that does not transmit visible light, donning broad rimmed hats that protect the face, ears and neck, and utilizing UV-blocking sunglasses. The card suggests that UV-absorbent sunglasses block 99 to 100 percent of UVA and UVB radiation. It also suggests using sunscreen of SPF-15 or higher and seeking shade between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The OSHA Sun Card is available by logging on to the publications section of www.osha.gov, Form 3166.

Coming to Terms

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

Single Vision ~ One focal length.

Single vision lenses assist in seeing things up close or at a distance.

Bifocal ~ Two focal lengths.

In a bifocal lens, the upper part of the lens has the prescription for seeing at a distance. The lined bifocal segment at the bottom of the lens is used for seeing things that are close. Bifocals are typically needed for assistance in reading at 12-14 inches.

Trifocal ~ Three focal lengths.

In a trifocal lens, the upper part of the lens has the prescription for seeing at a distance. The middle part assists the wearer in focusing on things at arm's length (computer screen). The bottom part of the trifocal assists in focusing on things up close.

Progressive Lenses ~ Multiple focal lengths.

Many people refer to progressives as no-line bifocals. A progressive lens brings the wearer comfortably from the top part of the lens, where the distance correction is, to the lower part of the lens, where the reading area is. Vision is clear at multiple focal lengths. Many people find it just as easy to learn to wear a progressive lens as a lined bifocal or trifocal. Progressive lens design has also improved a great deal over the last few years, making it a good option for industrial workers who require a multi-focal lens.

Next issue: "A shade better.." will focus on the variety of tints and coatings available.