

EYE PROTECTION

The Law
The Gear
The Daily Reality

THE LAW AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS

OSHA 1910.133 adopts ANSI standard Z87.1 as the testing and technical standard for eye and face protection, and states:

The employer shall ensure that each affected employee uses appropriate eye or face protection when exposed to eye or face hazards from flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors, or potentially injurious light radiation.

The employer shall ensure that each affected employee uses eye protection that provides side protection when there is a hazard from flying objects. Detachable side protectors (e.g. clip-on or slide-on side shields) meeting the pertinent requirements of this section are acceptable.

The employer shall ensure that each affected employee who wears prescription lenses while engaged in operations that involve eye hazards wears eye protection that incorporates the prescription in its design, or wears eye protection that can be worn over the prescription lenses without disturbing the proper position of the prescription lenses or the protective lenses.

Source: https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9778

THE LAW AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS

ANSI Z87.1 is not readily available to the public in an unparsed format, but sets technical standards for construction and testing of eye and face protection.

The following selection tool is provided instead, and is extremely useful if we extrapolate and use their specific terms to select our PPE in the digital age:

<https://safetyequipment.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Eye-and-Face-Selection-Guide-tool1.pdf>

THE LAW AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS

We have the great responsibility to our employees and agents, who place their trust in us every day in the field, to do our best to try and keep them safe. That safe working environment can only occur in a workplace featuring a culture of active safety communication between field personnel, supervisors and administrative staff, all of whom must be committed to a safe work space.

Also, we have the legal obligation as supervisory staff to maintain a “workplace that is free from serious recognized hazards,” per the general duty clause of the OSH Act.

Furthermore: we are so very, very beautiful, and it would be a shame to waste any of that beauty!

THE GEAR (FOR MOST OF OUR WORK ACTIVITIES)

Remember that selection tool thingy...even it is a monstrosity of a table requiring a seemingly absent (to the public) glossary of specific technical terms. Let's face it, though, quantifying everything needed to keep all humans from hurting their faces and eyes is a monumental task. Good luck to the people of ANSI (the ANSI?, ANSIers? ANSIDers?)!

Hint: Try shopping for the eye protection you need using the terms ANSI uses, and confirm on the labelling/marketing when it arrives that it meets the advertised standard in those terms as it is checked in.

For the majority of our work the types of eye protection required falls into two categories: “**Spectacles with side protection**” or “**Goggles**” *with direct, indirect or no ventilation.*

THE GEAR (FOR MOST OF OUR WORK ACTIVITIES)

Spectacles with side protection (what we all think of as eye pro or safety glasses)

Made to withstand impact and common flying debris

Marked as follows: Z87+, spectacle lenses marked with + and Z87.2+ for prescription frames.

Labelled as impact resistant, and if prescription spectacles, must have side shields.



THE GEAR (FOR MOST OF OUR WORK ACTIVITIES)

Goggles: *direct, indirect or no ventilation* (often called “lab goggles”)

Made to keep hazardous or irritating dusts, mists and **liquids**, out of our in our eyes.

Marked in “D” series of markings. The D3 is for splash/droplets, D4 for dust and D5 for fine dust. Note: there is no current marking for fine irritating mists, but goggles with no ventilation are recommended.

Generally labelled as made to do protect from dust or splash, meeting ANSI Z87.1+
d, talking about ventilation, anti-fogging and comfort properties. The
tion type should be i early on the labelling.



THE DAILY REALITY - CHECK IT OUT

The information you need to choose legal eye protection is not provided directly on the label or on the MDS! Both documents often only indicate the use of eye protection or protective eyewear (not which type).

When mixing concentrated chemicals or applying them in a spray format, splash/droplets/mist are the hazards we are exposed to, not flying debris.

Please do the right thing for yourself and your people and obtain the proper eye protection if you are using products like Element 3A and Liberate. Thanks! (from the blue people)