

# *Personal Protective Equipment The Department of Chemistry Eye Protection Policy*

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The Department of Chemistry of The Ohio State University has established an eyewear/eye protection policy in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code which states:

**Every student and teacher of a school, college or other educational institution shall wear industrial quality eye protective devices at all times while participating in or observing any of the following courses:...(B) Chemical, physical, or combined chemical-physical laboratories involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other hazards.**

**Industrial quality eye protective devices as used in this section, means devices meeting the standards of the American National Standard (ANSI) practice for occupational and educational eye and face protection, Z87.1-1968 [Z87.1-1989].**

All persons must wear appropriate protective eyewear while in any undergraduate or graduate, teaching, or research laboratory or in any posted area requiring protective eyewear. Appropriate protective eyewear for those persons in a posted area who are participating in activities which may involve an impact, heat, chemical, and/or dust hazard is defined as:

**ANSI certified goggles with shielded ventilation ports**

**OR**

**safety glasses which meet or exceed current ANSI Z87.1 standards containing permanently attached top AND side shields COUPLED with a full face shield which also meets current ANSI Z87.1 standards.**

Persons in a laboratory or a posted area who are not directly involved in a potentially hazardous activity are required to wear certified goggles with shielded ventilation ports OR certified safety glasses with permanently attached top and side shields.

This policy applies to ALL persons: faculty, staff, students, and visitors. It is the responsibility of the faculty member or the area supervisor to enforce the Department protective eyewear policy. Failure to do so may subject an individual to personal liability.

## **POLICY ENFORCEMENT**

**Failure to comply with the Department protective eyewear policy will result in the following actions: First notification will consist of a verbal warning. The second violation will consist of a written notice, with copies to the Department Safety Coordinator and the Department Safety Committee. Third and subsequent offenses will result in disciplinary action.**

**Enforcement of the Department's eye protection policy will be coordinated through the Office of the Chemical Safety. Any questions regarding the implementation or enforcement of the policy are to be directed to that office.**

*Revised 4/4/95*

## **Laser Spectroscopy Facility (LSF) Eye Protection Guidelines**

1. The basic protective eyeglasses which users of the LSF have been issued shall be worn at ALL times when within any LSF laboratory. The ONLY places in the LSF where a person will not need protective eyewear are the Conference Room, the hallways, or the Lounge area immediately adjacent to the Conference Room.
2. Each set of protective eyewear contains an optional set of flip-up filters. These must be in place when working on, or in the vicinity of, a working laser emitting light for which the flip-up filters offer protection. It is important to recognize that due to the variety of wavelengths emitted by the lasers, no set of eyewear can offer the user complete protection unless it is opaque. It is the responsibility of each LSF user to be informed of the relevant laser wavelengths in use and the corresponding protection offered by the eyewear. If questions arise, the research advisor must be consulted.
3. ALL visitors to the LSF must wear the provided visitor goggles. These goggles may be found inside the west door, in C. Carter's (LSF Senior Research Associate) office, or in the secretary's office.
4. When carrying out chemical reactions in the preparation room, chemical protective eyewear, as specified by the Chemistry Department for use elsewhere in the Department, shall be used INSTEAD of the laser protective eyewear.
5. All new users of the LSF must secure protective eyewear through the Safety Coordinator prior to working in the LSF.
6. Failure to comply with the guidelines will first consist of a verbal warning, followed by a written notice of a second offense. Records of these warnings will be kept by the Safety Coordinator. The automatic sanction for a third or further violations will be loss of 10% of a month's pay. Any 3-time (or greater) violator will be given a hearing by the LSF faculty to decide as to whether or not he/she will be allowed to continue work in the LSF. Violations will be noted by all LSF faculty members and the Senior Research Associate.
7. These policies are strongly encouraged between now and June 16, 1990; after June 17, 1990, the policies will be rigorously enforced.

### **Ultraviolet Radiation**

Persons using unprotected and/or uncovered sources of UV radiation for prolonged periods such as during gel viewing and manipulation are required to wear UV blocking eyewear OR a UV blocking face shield. The Department of Chemistry will pay for the initial purchase of a UV blocking face shield for research groups in the Department whose work requires one. Maintenance and replacement of the face shield is the responsibility of the research group.

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### **Implementation of Eyewear Policy**

The Department of Chemistry will purchase the FIRST pair of prescription or non-prescription ANSI Z87.1 Safety Glasses for members of the Chemistry Department who are faculty, staff, graduate students, post doctoral associates and visiting professors. Persons not falling into any of the above categories (i.e., undergraduates conducting extended research with a faculty member summer research program participants) may, on their own or in conjunction with the faculty with whom they are working, purchase ANSI Z87 Safety Glasses on their own or may petition the Safety

Coordinator for special consideration so that the Department will pay for the purchase of such glasses. The Department of Chemistry holds its members responsible for obtaining a current eyeglass prescription (if necessary). The Department will consider purchasing subsequent prescription eyewear, should the member's prescription change after a minimum two-year period, or on the written recommendation of the attending physician.

The Department of Chemistry will initially purchase protective face shields for individuals who need them. These face shields will stay with the research group, laboratory, shop, or office. The maintenance and/or replacement of the face shields is the responsibility of the research group, laboratory, shop, or office.

Upon initial activation of the Eyewear Policy, members of the Chemistry Department will be required to sign a copy of the Policy indicating that they have read and understood it. New members of the Chemistry Department will also be required to sign a similar document at the time of their employment.

New members of the Chemistry Department will have 45 days during which they are to obtain their ANSI Z87.1 Safety Glasses. Until the glasses have been received, these new members must still comply with the Eyewear Policy by wearing appropriate eye protection.

Each research group, laboratory, shop, or office should have a Safety Officer in charge of coordinating the acquisition of Eyewear for members of his or her research group, laboratory, shop, or office as well as acting as a liaison between the research group, laboratory, shop, or office and the Office of the Safety Coordinator.

### **Contact Lenses**

The Chemistry Department recommends that contact lenses NOT be worn in the laboratory for the following reasons: they can create a visual problem if suddenly displaced; contact lenses are difficult to remove should chemicals get into the eyes; and they tend to prevent the removal of contaminants by natural eye fluids. Soft contact lenses present special hazards. Not only will they discolor should they come into contact with many laboratory chemicals, but also can absorb chemicals and chemical vapors, causing extensive corneal damage before the wearer is aware of any problem.