

Lakehead University Health & Safety Procedure	Eye and Face Protection
Approved By:	Approved on: Revised on:
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Intent: This document was created to ensure that Lakehead University employees, contractors and students follow procedures which ensure safety and compliance when working with physical hazards, chemical substances, harmful radiant energy or nuisance dust, or any other conditions which have the potential to cause eye injury.

Scope:

This policy applies to all members of the University Community who are exposed to an eye or face hazard.

Definitions:

- CSA* the Canadian Standards Association is a not-for-profit membership-based association that develop standards to address needs, such as enhancing public safety and health, advancing the quality of life, helping to preserve the environment and facilitating trade
- Eye and face protectors* devices designed to provide protection against eye and face injuries
- face shields* secondary protective devices intended to protect the wearer’s face from physical objects and chemical substances
- goggles* primary protective devices intended to fit the area immediately around the eyes in order to protect against
- laser protective eyewear* specially designed eyewear that reduce the potential ocular exposure to laser radiation, must meet ANSI Z136.1 – 2000
- prescription glasses* do not provide the necessary eye and face protection against physical and chemical hazards
- primary protective eyewear* eyewear such as safety glasses, goggles, prescription glasses, when worn with a secondary protective device

Applicable Legislation and Standards:

Occupational Health and Safety Act, R.S.O. 1990 Sections 25, 27, 28

Regulation 851, R.R.O, 1990, Industrial Establishments, Sections 29, 36, 79, 81, 84, 137;
Regulation 833, R.R.O, 1990, Control of exposure to biological or chemical agents, Section 3.

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CSA Standard Z94.3-00, Industrial eye and face protectors;
ANSI Z136.1 – 2000: American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers;

Guidelines:

- In order to comply with Provincial regulations, all persons exposed to an eye or face hazard (i.e. impact from a physical object, splash or vapour from a chemical substance, harmful radiant energy, nuisance dust) shall wear the appropriate eye or face protection. This includes staff, faculty, students and visitors.
- Eye and face protective devices can not be used instead of machine guards and other engineered controls.
- The requirements for eye and face protection in a specific workplace or for a specific process shall be determined by the Supervisor. The area shall have an “EYE PROTECTION MANDATORY” sign posted and Supervisors will enforce this eye and face protection requirement.
- All employees shall wear eye and face protection that meets or exceeds the Canadian Standard Association (CSA) standard Z94.3-00, at all times that there is a potential for eye injury.
- When working on live electrical equipment, eye protection with non-conducting frames should be worn as recommended by the Electrical Utilities Safety Association.
- Supervisors shall instruct the users of eye and face protection on the use, limitations and maintenance of the eyewear.
- The type of eye protection required in a student laboratory or activity shall be determined by the Department. The requirement to wear such protective devices shall be written in the student laboratory manual and shall be enforced by the laboratory instructor or activity supervisor. A zero tolerance policy for non-compliance should be maintained.
- Special circumstances arise when wearing prescription or other safety eyewear under other personal protective equipment (i.e. full face respirators). Consult your Supervisor for assistance in determining the correct fit.
- In order to assist Supervisors in assessing the need for eye and face protective devices in their workplace, a Workplace hazards survey is attached.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis by the Health and Safety Officer – Human Resources and the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee annually.

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Workplace Hazards Assessment Eye and Face Protection

To assess the need for eye and face protection in the workplace, proceed with the following steps:

Conduct a walk-through survey of the workplace to identify the hazards. Consideration should be given to the five basic hazard categories. For assistance in conducting a workplace hazards assessment, contact the Office of Human Resources – Health and Safety, Ext. 8806.

- impact;
- chemical;
- dust;
- heat;
- optical radiation.

During the walk-through survey, be conscientious for sources of:

- motion;
- chemical exposures;
- dust;
- high temperatures;
- optical radiation;
- location of other workers working with any of the above mentioned hazards;
- electrical hazards.

Following the walk-through survey, make a full risk assessment of the hazards identified. In order to determine the eye and face protection required when working with chemicals, refer to the MSDS for the chemical.

Once an eye and face protective device(s) have been selected, communicate these requirements to all personnel working in the area. Supervisors should make record of any instruction and training they give to the workers.

If the conditions in the workplace change, remember to reassess the hazards.