

PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR: OBTAINING AND CLEANING PROCEDURE[®]

KEY POINTS

- Protective eyewear (such as safety glasses or face shields) must be worn while performing any procedure where **(a)** there is a likelihood of splashing or splattering of biological or chemical substances or **(b)** eye protection is required (e.g. laser procedures).
- Protective eyewear is available to all staff members upon request within your work area
- Reusable protective eyewear must be cleaned in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

CHANGE SUMMARY

- Updated as per legislation Procedure for cleaning protective eyewear

READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- All managers are to be aware of this policy.
- Local managers to determine which staff are to read and acknowledge they understand to contents of this document.

Approved by:	SCHN Policy, Procedure and Guideline Committee	
Date Effective:	1 st December 2017	Review Period: 3 years
Team Leader:	WHS and IM Manager	Area/Dept: WHS and IM

Introduction

Protective eyewear (such as safety glasses or face shields) must be worn while performing any procedure or task where:

- there is a likelihood of splashing or splattering of blood or other body substances as part of standard precautions or
- the procedure requires protective eyewear (such as laser procedures, welding etc)

Protective eyewear is available to all staff members who require them and they are available upon request within your work area. Individual staff members are responsible for the use and cleanliness of their protective eyewear.

At the discretion of the Nursing Unit Manager or CNC Infection Control, it may be more appropriate in some ward situations for protective eyewear to be allocated for the care of a particular patient but the protective eyewear must be kept clean and in good condition at all times.

General prescription glasses do not comply with Australian Standards hence protective eyewear must be worn *in addition* to prescription glasses.

Definition: Eyewear must be optically clear, anti-fog, distortion free, close fitting, shielded at the side and conform to AS/NZS 1336 and AS/NZS 1337.1. Protective eyewear must be worn and fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Cleaning and Disinfection

If in the course of duty, protective eyewear becomes contaminated with blood or body substances they should be cleaned and disinfected using universal precautions. Reusable protective eyewear must be cleaned in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions after use and stored clean and dry.

Procedure

- Thoroughly clean with neutral detergent and water.
- Rinse well with water.
- Dry protective eyewear with soft material or cloth.
- If the protective eyewear is unable to be cleaned and disinfected successfully (e.g. residual blood is unable to be removed or there is plastic clouding or metal corrosion evident), then the protective eyewear should be discarded in the contaminated waste and a replacement pair obtained.
- If the protective eyewear is allocated on a per patient basis, when the patient is discharged, the protective eyewear may be reallocated for use with another patient. If the protective eyewear is reallocated it must still be in good condition and it must be thoroughly cleaned with neutral detergent and water.

Safety Rules

- Protective eyewear labelled '*single use*' must not be reused.

Related Information

- PD 2013_050 WHS: Better Practice Procedures
- [SCHN WHS Policy and Commitment Statement](#)
- [SCHN - PPE for Infection Control Precautions](#)

References

1. NSW Ministry of Health- Infection Prevention and Control Policy PD2017_013
2. Australian Standards relevant to workplace eye safety

Main Topic	Standard	Title
Non-prescription safety eyewear	AS/NZS 1336	Recommended practices for occupational eye protection. (Also contains some information on the use of prescription safety eyewear, but this has been, in the main, superseded by AS/NZS 1337.6)
	AS/NZS 1337	Eye protectors for industrial applications. Note: A new AS/NZS 1337 is close to being published
	AS/NZS 4066	Eye protectors for racquet sports. (Also contains some information on prescription eye protectors)
Laser eye protection	AS/NZS 1337.4	Personal eye protection. Part 4: Filters and eye protectors against laser radiation (laser eye protectors)
	AS/NZS 1337.5	Personal eye protection. Part 5: Eye protectors for adjustment work on lasers and laser systems (laser adjustment eye protectors)
Prescription safety eyewear	AS/NZS 1337.6	Personal eye protection. Part 6: Prescription eye protectors against low and medium impact
Filters & screens	AS/NZS 1338.1	Filters for eye protectors. Part 1: Filters for protection against radiation generated in welding and allied operations
	AS/NZS 1338.2	Filters for eye protectors. Part 2: Filter for protection against ultraviolet radiation
	AS/NZS 1338.3	Filters for eye protectors. Part 3: Filter for protection against infra-red radiation
	AS/NZS 3957	Light-transmitting screens and curtains for welding operations
	AS 1470	Health and safety at work: Principles and practices

3. Workplace conditions	AS/NZS 1680	Interior lighting. Part 0: Safe movement Part 1: General principles and recommendations Parts 2.1-2.5: Specific applications
	AS/NZS 2211.1	Safety of laser products Part 1: Equipment classification, requirements and user guide. (This topic is also covered, in less detail, in AS/NZS 1336 and AS/NZS 1337.4&5)
	AS/NZS 2211.3	Safety of laser products. Part 3: Guidance for laser displays and shows
	AS 2397	Safe use of lasers in the building and construction industry
	AS/NZS 2243 Set	Safety in laboratories
General purpose eyewear	AS/NZS 2228.1	Spectacles. Part 1: Spectacle lenses
	AS/NZS 2228.2	Spectacles. Part 2: Spectacle frames
	AS/NZS 1067	Sunglasses and fashion spectacles. Non-prescription protective eyewear.

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