

Eye Protection Policy

I. Introduction

- A. The University of Wyoming (UW) is committed to reducing hazards and providing a healthful and safe workplace. This includes preventing injuries and illnesses to all who work for or visit UW.

II. Purpose

- A. To be in compliance with federal and state regulations, employers must 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.
- B. Before depending exclusively on personal protective equipment such as eye protection, it is preferable that the above hazards are eliminated or minimized by (1) substitution, (2) engineering controls or (3) administrative controls whenever possible.

III. Scope

- A. Persons covered in this policy include administration, faculty, staff, visitors, and students or other persons that may work in, study in, or inhabit UW facilities or property.

IV. Definitions

- A. **Administrative controls** (or **work practice controls**): Written safety policies, rules, supervision, schedules, and training used to minimize the exposure to hazards.
- B. **Engineering controls**: Barriers or equipment, such as exhaust ventilation, safety interlocks, and radiation shielding to reduce chemical and physical exposures.
- C. **Faculty**: Personnel at UW whose regular assignments include instruction, research, and/or public service as a principal activity, and who hold academic rank as professor, associate professor, assistant professor or instructor at UW.



- D. **Hazard Assessment:** A documented process of identifying the hazards associated with a work environment, project or task; prescribing relevant control measures and personal protective equipment to reduce the risk from the hazards. (See www.uwyo.edu/ehs/formsandprocedures/standardoperatingprocedures.html)
- E. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Equipment or clothing worn to protect against health and safety hazards. PPE is designed to protect many parts of the body (e.g., eyes, head, face, hands, feet, and ears). PPE is a last-resort control, used when elimination, substitution and engineering and administrative controls do not reduce the hazard adequately.
- F. **Principal Investigator** – Scientist in charge of an experiment or research project.
- G. **Substitution:** replacing a hazardous chemical or process with a less hazardous one.
- H. **Supervisor:** Any person responsible for directing the activities of employees, contractors or visitors. Includes, but not limited to: Deans, Directors, Department Heads, managers, instructors, trade supervisors, faculty, principal investigators (PIs), lab managers, and nurse managers.

V. Responsibilities under this policy

- A. Deans, Directors, and Department Heads
 1. Provide personal protective equipment, including eye protection that will (at a minimum) comply with this policy at no cost to the affected employees, invited visitors or volunteers.
 2. Provide support for personal protective equipment hazard assessments and training as required.
- B. Supervisors (including managers, instructors, and principal investigators)
 1. Conduct hazard assessments in order to determine what eye protection is required.
 2. Prepare standard operating procedures (SOPs) specifying when and where eye protection is worn.
 3. Ensure that eye protection is appropriate, in good condition and worn at all times when the hazard is present.



4. Ensure that affected employees know how and when eye protection is to be worn.
 5. Set an example by modeling safe work practices.
- C. Faculty, Instructors, and Staff
1. Use proper eye protection is required.
 2. Identify additional situations that require eye protection.
 3. Ensure that eye protection is adequate and is worn by students at all times when eye hazards are present.
- D. Students, visitors, and volunteers
1. All students, invited visitors and volunteers are expected to adhere to the requirements of this policy.
 2. Students engaged in UW academic classes that involve eye hazards, who are not employed by UW (e.g., work study), may be expected to provide their own PPE, including eye protection.
- E. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Department
1. Provides consultation and initial training for specific hazards as required. See the EHS website <http://www.uwyo.edu/ehs/training> for a listing of classes offered.

VI. Procedures

- A. Use Approved Eye Protection
1. Design, construction, testing, and use of eye protection shall be in accordance with accepted standards (e.g., ANSI/ASSE Z87.1-2010 or ANSI Z136.1-2007). See Appendix A for a list of references.
 - a. When limitations or precautions of the eye protective equipment are specified by the manufacturer, they shall be transmitted to the user and care taken to see that such limitations and precautions are strictly observed.
 2. Eye protection equipment shall:
 - a. be durable;
 - b. be reasonably comfortable when worn under the designated conditions;



- c. fit snugly and shall not unduly interfere with the movements of the wearer and;
 - d. be easily cleanable and capable of being disinfected.
- B. Maintain Eye Protection
 1. Keep equipment clean and in good repair.
 2. Replace faulty eye protection equipment.
- C. Corrective lenses
 1. Contact lenses
 - a. Use eye and face protection when wearing contact lenses.
 - b. Contact lenses should not be worn while working with acrylonitrile, 1,2 dibromo-3-chloropropane, ethylene oxide, methylene chloride, and 4,4' -methylene dianiline (American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine).
 2. Spectacles
 - a. Persons who cannot safely work without the use of spectacles shall wear one of the following types:
 - i. Approved (Z-87, with side shields) eye-protective corrective spectacles;
 - ii. Goggles that can be worn over corrective spectacles without inhibiting vision;
 - iii. Goggles that incorporate corrective lenses mounted behind the protective lenses.



Appendix A: References

- Code of Federal Regulations, 29 CFR 1910.133, Subpart I, Personal Protective Equipment, Eye and face protection.
- Code of Federal Regulations, 29 CFR 1926.102, Safety and Health Regulations for Construction, Subpart E. Personal Protective and Life Saving Equipment, Eye and face protection.
- American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection, ANSI/ASSE Z87.1-2010.
- American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers, ANSI Z136.1-2007.
- University of Wyoming Regulation 4-2, Employment Provisions Applicable to All Personnel, Section L, Safety.
- University of Wyoming Chemical Hygiene Plan, Chemical Safety Program
- University of Wyoming Hazard Communication Plan, Chemical Safety Program
- University of Wyoming Laser Protection Plan, Radiation Safety Program