

Guideline safety glasses laboratories

In which cases safety goggles¹

If a risk assessment and evaluation shows that the risks of damage to health in the work situation cannot be avoided by other means.

Where danger to the safety or health of an employee is present or may arise in the workplace, personal protective equipment shall be available in sufficient quantity for employees who are or may be exposed to that danger.

What are the hazards

Hazardous substances, materials or objects that can damage the eye. This may be immediate damage to the eye, or damage that will only occur over a longer period of time.

Use safety goggles if:

Chance of contact with the eye and damage to the eye is present:

- while performing open operations in the lab where (hazardous) substances or materials can get into the eyes.
During open operations, there is no shielding between the employee and the substance/material being worked with.
- in a lab environment with other employees nearby who work with (hazardous) substances or materials that could get into the own eyes.

Examples:

Laboratories working with:

- Hazardous substances - chemicals that can cause eye irritation or damage (H phrases: H314, H315, H317, H318, H319)
- biological agents - biological agents that are potentially pathogenic or can transmit disease.
- glass - splinters from glass processing; splinters from breaking glassware
- metal - metal working that produces metal grindings

What are the requirements for safety goggles?

General requirements personal protective equipment and safety glasses:

- Regulation (EU) 2016/425
- Safety glasses comply with the Basic Safety Glasses Standard: EN 166; NEN-EN 166:2001

Other criteria and hints:

- FT: protection against high velocity particles at temperatures in the range of -5 to 55 Celsius.
- Optical class
 1. Optical class 1: suitable for all day use
 2. Optical class 2: suitable for intermittent use

¹ Safety glasses in chemical, biological agents, at physical lab. Not for: lasers, UV light etc.

- 3. Optical class 3: for occasional cases
- the method of use:
 - a. the duration of wearing
 - b. the frequency of exposure to the hazard and the characteristics of the workplace
- Nose bridge with anti-slip coating ; Non-slip goggle legs; scratch-resistant, anti-fog glasses

Availability of safety goggles

Personal protective equipment is in principle intended for use by one person.

If circumstances require that a personal protective equipment is used by more than one person, hygiene measures are taken: cleaning and/or disinfection.

For example:

- Restricted labs: safety glasses must remain at the particular lab
- For visitors: safety goggles available at labs

Maintenance

- Personal protective equipment shall be used and maintained in accordance with the instructions for use.
- Cleaning:
 - with mild detergent (see manufacturer's instructions; for polycarbonate, ethanol is not recommended, as it corrodes material), and rinse with water if necessary, dry with soft cloth.
- Disinfection in restricted labs:
 - In case of contamination on the glasses, the glasses must be cleaned according to a validated method with disinfectant approved by the CTGB.²
- Regularly check that the personal protective equipment is still working correctly and is still in good condition according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Examples of safety goggles

The appendix lists different types of safety glasses:

- Basic safety - general use
- Safety goggles, also called protective goggles
- Prescription spectacles

² Board for the authorisation of plant protection products and biocides