

Health and Safety Committee

New Safety Eyewear Standard: Confusion Over at Last

Until recently, goggles and safety glasses marked with “Z87.1” indicated they were certified to have passed one of the American National Standards Institute’s (ANSI) tests, but which test? For example, a pair of glasses shaped like safety glasses with side shields, which we might assume would protect the eyes from impact during machine work, could really be glasses approved only for very low amounts of ultraviolet light from welding operations when used at a considerable distance.

The new ANSI Z87.1-2010 standard has finally made it possible to look at the markings on eyewear to determine exactly what they will protect against. Now all eyewear designed to resist impact will be marked with a + sign. There is no middle ground, it either is rated for high impact or it is not.

The lens or shield will be marked for the type of light or radiation, such as ultraviolet or infrared, it will repel. Use will also be indicated; markings will indicate protection against splashes or dust. The following codes will be used to indicate the types of protection:

How To Read The Marks

Manufacturers of eyewear must identify themselves, and the “Mfg” as prefix indicates this. Next, the “Z87” logo (to indicate the ANSI standard) is followed by other marks. Some typical types of eyewear used in art and theater work might include:

Artists who are exposed on occasion to splashes of paints and solvents, dust, and impact should wear a goggle fitted to the face with certifications reading: **MfgZ87+D3D4**.

Woodworking requires eyewear in which both the frame and the lenses are marked and rated for high impact. If the lenses in those side-shielded spectacles are also prescription, they would be marked: **MfgZ87-2+**.

Welding Shields can also be rated for impact. A shield that also has a **W** shade of 5 and a UV rating of 3 would be marked **MfgZ87+W5U3**.

And, when you are not sure of the meaning of the string of letters and numbers, the manufacturer’s mark can help you identify who to call to find out exactly what the eyewear will protect against.

Keep a copy of this chart in the workplace to help interpret these marks.

Note: This information was derived from the ANSI Z87.1-2010 & Lab Safety Newsletter, 9/2010.

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Type of Mark	Description	Marking
Impact	Rated lens or shield	Z87+
	Rated lens-prescription	Z87-2+
Non-impact	Unrated lens or shield	Z87
	Unrated-prescription	Z87-2
Lens type	Clear	none
	Welding	W and Shade Number (Range from 1.3 to 14—the higher the number the darker the lens)
	UV filter	U and Scale Number (Scale ranges from 2 to 6—the higher the number the higher the protection from UV)
	Visible light filter	L and Scale Number (Scale ranges from 1.3 to 10— lower numbers provide greater protection)
	Infrared filter	R and Scale Number (Scale ranges from 1.3 to 10— lower numbers provide greater protection)
	Variable Tint (darken in the sun)	V
Use	Special purpose	S
	Splash/droplet protection	D3
	Dust	D4
	Fine dust	D5
	Head size	H

Preservation Week 2011 begins April 24

AIC is pleased to partner with the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), Library of Congress, Heritage Preservation, Society of American Archivists, and Institute of Museum and Library Services to participate in the second annual Preservation Week, taking place April 24–30. As a founding partner, AIC is planning a public lecture that is being organized with the help of our Philadelphia members. Look for more information coming soon on the website.

In 2010, AIC’s first Preservation Week public lecture was offered in partnership with the Milwaukee Public Library. This well-received program featured Debra Hess Norris presenting “Don’t Leave Grandma in the Attic!: The Preservation of Your Family Photographs.”

AIC is also working with the Library of Congress to provide information for a series of bookmarks produced to promote Preservation Week. These bookmarks provide simple care tips for the public and are colorful reminders to preserve family treasures.

Planning to promote Preservation Week to your community? Go to the Preservation Week page on the ALCTS website (www.ala.org/preservationweek) for information and ideas!