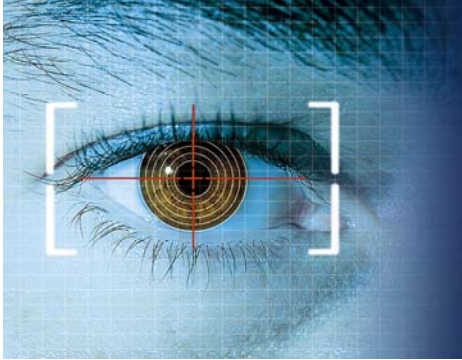


How much eye protection is enough?

Poor employee compliance is the primary reason for industrial eye injuries



What Causes Eye Injuries?

70% of eye injuries at work result from small particles or objects striking or abrading the eye - e.g. metal slivers, wood chips, sparks, dust and cement chips that are ejected by tools, wind blown or fall from above the worker. Some of these objects such as nails, staples, slivers of wood or metal penetrate the eye ball and result in permanent loss of vision. Large objects may strike the eye causing blunt force trauma to the eyeball or eye socket. 20% of eye injuries result from splashes of chemicals or cleaning products leading to chemical burns to one or both eyes. Thermal burns and UV radiation burns routinely damage workers' eyes and surrounding tissue.

A 2002 survey of workers who suffered eye injuries, found that nearly three out of five were not wearing eye protection at the time of the accident as they believed it was not required for the situation. 90% of injuries to workers who were wearing eye protection, resulted from objects or chemicals going around or under the protector.

To be effective safety eyewear must fit properly, be comfortable, and designed specifically to protect against the hazard encountered.

Together with leading eyewear manufacturers and training specialists, Anderco Safety has developed a flexible, customisable eye injury prevention program, designed to help companies improve health, safety and productivity and reduce workplace accidents.

Eye injuries are potentially one of the most painful, debilitating, and costly injuries that can occur in the workplace. The financial cost of these is enormous - lost production, medical expenses and worker compensation - not to mention the personal toll these injuries take on the injured workers.

If you don't have a well designed and implemented eye safety program, painful and unnecessary eye injuries are more likely to be more prevalent in your workplace. A well designed program combines the effective selection, use and maintenance of safety eyewear with focused communication and training to provide motivation and encouragement to employees and maintain the highest level of safety awareness. **For your safety program to work, your employees need to know why it is important to wear protective eyewear and they need you to make it easy for them to do so effectively.** Anderco Safety can help you to implement a quality eye injury prevention program guaranteed to increase safety, ensure compliance, contribute to good employee relations, promote a favourable corporate image, and reduce the risk of financial loss resulting from employee injuries.

Communicate the safety message

- **Educate employees about job hazards** - and how they can be avoided through the proper use and care of safety eyewear and workplace equipment.
- **Issue guidelines** - clearly stating your policies about when protective eyewear should be worn and by whom.
- **Post signs** - reminding employees when and where to use eye protection.
- **Issue free cases, holders and/or straps** - to protect eyewear from hazards of the workplace when they are not being worn and save on replacement costs.
- **Make it easy for employees to keep eyewear clean** - by providing cleaning materials in a convenient location.
- **Inspect eyewear frequently** - as cracks in lenses, loose or broken frame can often contribute to accidents causing eye injuries. Scratched and dirty lenses reduce vision, cause glares and lose their impact resistance.

Together with leading eyewear manufacturers and training specialists, Anderco safety has developed a flexible, customisable eye injury prevention program, designed to help companies improve health, safety and productivity and reduce workplace accidents. Anderco's technical consultants and instructors are on hand to provide informed advice on safety legislation, hazard analysis, product selection, training and eye safety signage. Working with large and small businesses across a wide spectrum of market sectors, Anderco have gained extensive experience of a wide range of technical and industrial environments and are well placed to provide informed advice on safety legislation, hazard analysis, product selection and application, training and safety signage.