

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA  
JULY 29, 1975

Standards Notice - 8  
Revision 4/11/79

TO: OSHA Staff, Consultants, Supervisors, and Safety Officers, Industrial Hygienists, and Training Specialists

SUBJECT: Eye and Face Protection

A. Standard

29 CFR 1910.133 (a) (1): Protective eye and face equipment shall be required where there is a reasonable probability of injury that can be prevented by such equipment. In such cases, employers shall make conveniently available a type of protector suitable for the work to be performed, and employees shall use such protectors. No unprotected person shall knowingly be subjected to a hazardous environmental condition. Suitable eye protectors shall be provided where machines or operations present the hazard of flying objects, glare, liquids, injurious radiation, or a combination of these hazards.

B. Discussion

1. The phrase "reasonable probability of injury that can be prevented by such equipment" has often been misinterpreted to mean "reasonable probability of injury".

29 CFR 1910.133(a) (1) requires the use of eye and face protection equipment where such equipment could reasonably be expected to prevent eye and face injuries from hazards which are apparent in a given work environment.

To substantiate a violation of 29 CFR 1910.133(a) (1) it is not necessary to show that eye injuries have occurred or are occurring with a given frequency. It is sufficient to show that if eye and face protection is used, it is reasonably predictable that eye and face injuries from observed hazards can be prevented. It is important to note, however, that documentation of injury associated with a specific condition (employer injury and illness records, employee interviews, etc. or industry statistics) must be provided as supportive data whenever it is available.

2. With regard to pneumatic fastening tools, the use of safety devices to prevent accidental discharge can provide protection against the hazard of the fastener itself if the safety device is properly used and maintained. However, tool safety devices may provide no protection from ricocheting fasteners, flying splinters, or particles displaced by exhaust air.

The complete operation must be observed and analyzed to determine if an eye injury hazard exists due to the tool, the fastener, the workplace, the operation, or any other factor. If an eye injury hazard exists, then a citation should be recommended.

C. Interpretation

1. Eye protection shall be required where there is a reasonable probability that injury could be prevented by such protection.
2. Standards Notice 8, dated April 8, 1975, is superseded by this notice.
3. See also Standards Notice 38.

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