

**Safe Science =  
Good Science**  
**July 16, 2021**

ANSI Z87 Guidelines:

Approved safety goggles and glasses should be certified with the Z87 mark on the frames or lenses.



- If the frame is impact rated (high-mass and high-velocity) it will be stamped with Z87+
- If you are unsure of certification, check with the manufacturer.

Make sure eye protection:

- Is readily available
- Fits properly
- Stored safely and away from potential damage and contamination
- Inspected prior to using; dispose if damaged

To ensure proper eyewear is used for the task and provides adequate protection, a hazard assessment should be conducted to determine the risk of exposure to eye and face hazards. **Contact DEHS for assistance at 852-6670.**

# Eye Safety



The eye is our window to the world and we tend to take it for granted. It is one of the most common injuries that can occur because we neglect to wear the proper eye protection. On average **2,000 people suffer eye injuries each day**; this includes people who work in offices, healthcare facilities, laboratories, and similar environments. **90% can be avoided by wearing the appropriate eye protection.**

## Keep your Eye on Safety

At UofL many of our laboratories are shared environments, individuals with varying levels of experience are performing experiments and procedures with hazardous chemicals and agents; often under pressure or in a vacuum. **Even if you are not working with any hazardous chemicals or agents, you need to be aware that the person working at your bench could be working with hazardous material.** If you are working near open hazardous chemicals or agents you should always wear the proper PPE; the person next to you could trip, spill, or splash chemicals.

**Personal glasses** cannot be used as eye protection. Everyday prescription eyewear does not meet the regulatory requirements to protect from impact, chemical, and other specific hazards that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are required to meet. **Use ANSI Z87 certified eyewear.**

**Contacts** are not recommended to be worn in the lab. The plastic used in the lenses are **permeable to some vapors found in the laboratory.** The vapors can become trapped behind the lens and cause irritation. Contacts are not easy to remove if we get something trapped behind them or have an irritant in our eyes. If a corrosive liquid should splash into them, our natural reflex is to shut our eyelids, making it almost impossible for us to be able to remove the contacts to prevent further damage.

**Eyewash stations** should be located within **10 seconds from hazards.** Do not store items in front of the eye wash station...this will impede the injured from being able to use properly and could cause further injury. To maintain your labs eye wash station, make sure to run the eye wash weekly and appropriately document.

When using an eyewash station:

- Have someone help guide you to the eye wash station
- If wearing contacts, remove them immediately
- Turn on the eye wash and put eyes directly into the stream
- Keep your eyes open (use your fingers to help pry them open) and **flush for 15 minutes**
- Seek medical evaluation

