

Eye & Face Protection

Todd Jerome Jenkins | v1.0 | October 6, 2026 | Task-specific eye and face protection in construction

Why this matters

Eye protection must match what can reach the worker: chips, dust, splash or harmful light. A familiar pair of glasses may not cover a changed task, and scratched or fogged lenses can undermine safe work.

Objective: Match protection to the exposure and verify fit, condition and compatibility.

Key hazards or failure points

Flying particles; chemical splash; dust; harmful optical radiation; gaps or damaged lenses; and protection displaced by a respirator, helmet or other equipment.

Practical controls

- Reduce the exposure through the approved work method, guarding, screening or other controls. Keep nearby workers out of the affected area or provide the protection their exposure requires.
- Select eye and face protection for the actual hazard using the task assessment, applicable requirements and manufacturer instructions. Confirm side protection, splash protection or appropriate filters where the task requires them.
- Use a face shield with the required primary eye protection, not as its replacement. Make sure prescription needs and other PPE are accommodated without defeating fit or coverage.

Verify It in the Field

- Compare the task and material with the specified protection. Check product identification and markings against the selection requirements; do not assume every goggle, shield or shaded lens protects against the same hazard.
- Inspect lenses, frames, straps and shields for damage or impaired visibility. Have the worker put on the complete PPE combination in a safe area and check fit and coverage through normal head movements.
- Check the source controls and nearby-worker protection before exposure. For chemical work, confirm the response instructions and required emergency facilities under the SDS and site plan; know how to reach them without delay.

Stop and reassess

Stop if the task or material changes, protection shifts, visibility is impaired, equipment is damaged or the required protection is unavailable. Leave the exposure safely before adjusting or removing it. For an exposure, use the task's emergency response and get appropriate medical help. Correct and recheck the controls before restarting.

Ask the crew

- What could reach our eyes or face during this step?
- How do we know this equipment protects against that specific hazard?
- Does it still fit and allow clear vision with all the other PPE on?

Check the hazard, the protection and the fit together.

Next step: Record today's changes and checks on the free JSA Planning and Field-Verification Sheet. Supervisor check and attendance are separate.

[Free JSA planning sheet](#)

References: OSHA 1926.102; OSHA eye/face PPE guidance; equipment instructions. Expanded explanation and references accompany the web version.