

Choosing the right
prescription eye protection
for your employees



If you have employees working in environments which may be hazardous to their eyesight, you have a responsibility as an employer to provide the correct protective eyewear.

The problem is where to start. Today, there is a wealth of protective eyewear available in the market place. To choose the right eyewear, it is important to understand the environment in which your employee's work, as the level of robustness the eye protection needs to offer can vary.

There are several categories of protection and each has a classification symbol, the symbol represents the suitability for a particular environment.

Safety eyewear is categorised under the European Standard BS EN166

Directive 89/686/EEC requires the CE symbol marking and the manufacturers logo on all equipment of personal protection. The classifications are as follows:

Increased robustness	S	SPECTACLE
Medium energy impact	F	SPECTACLE
Medium energy impact	B	GOGGLE
High energy impact	A	FACE SCREEN
Droplets/Liquid splash	3	GOGGLE/FACE SCREEN
Large dust particles	4	GOGGLES
Gas & fine dust particles	5	GOGGLES
Short circuit electric arc	8	FACE SCREEN
Molten metals & hot solids	9	FACE SCREEN

Safety spectacles are the most widely used form of eye protection, these can either be plano (non-prescription) or prescription for wearers who need visual correction.

Safety spectacles are categorised as either 'S' or 'F' rated.

S is the lower standard and means that the spectacles give a greater level of protection to the eyes than ordinary streetwear, however, they are not suitable for very hazardous environments.

F means that the spectacles can withstand medium energy impact.





How is the robustness of eyewear determined?

To comply with standard EN166, the eyewear must be strong enough to withstand everyday risks that might damage or affect the eye protector.

The symbol 'S' guarantees the minimum strength that corresponds to a Ø 22 mm ball, 43g, falling from a height of 1.30 m (12m/sec.). CR39 optical plastic lenses meet this level of protection.

The symbol 'F' is the strongest level for prescription safety glasses. This is tested by firing a steel ball at 45 m/sec. Polycarbonate and Trivex lenses are used for this level of protection.

For employees exposed to large dust particles, liquid splash of medium energy flying debris, a goggle is often preferred, as it will have a tight and closed fit to the face, creating a seal.

If the wearer is exposed to significant hazards, such a flying debris or molten metals then a full face visor is more suitable.

At HealthcarePlan we offer four types of prescription eye protection

S	S rated safety spectacles with fully integrated side shields – suitable for employees in low risk environments
F	F rated safety spectacles with side shields – suitable for employees at risk of flying debris
F	F rated eyeshield with removable prescription insert – offering wraparound protection suitable for employees working in environments where enhanced lateral protection is required
F	F rated goggles – providing comprehensive protection from liquid splash, gas and dust particles

*Disclaimer: this sheet is for guidance only.

All of our eye protection is Optical Class 1, suitable for permanent wear. We promote the use of Trivex lenses which offer the best overall combination of strength and optical quality, but also use polycarbonate if preferred.

Further information can be found on our website (www.eyecareplans.co.uk) or from our expert Customer Service Team on 0844 800 4028

