

Australian/New Zealand Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**Recommended practices for  
occupational eye protection**

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## **AS/NZS 1336:1997**

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This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF/6, Eye Protection. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 15 November 1996 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 15 November 1996. It was published on 5 January 1997.

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Australia/New Zealand Standards Committee SF/6 on Eye Protection to supersede AS 1336—1982, *Recommended practices for eye protection in the industrial environment*.

The Standard provides guidance for the selection, care and use of eye protectors worn in occupational environments to protect eyes against hazards, such as flying particles and fragments, and exposure to optical radiation occurring in industrial processes, such as welding. This edition includes recommended methods for elimination or control of eye hazards, provides recommendations for the use of eye protectors which comply with the relevant Australian/New Zealand Standards, and contains basic details for the development of eye safety programs. Appendices providing guidance on selection and use of filters for protection against optical radiation generated during welding and allied operations, ultraviolet and infrared radiation have been included for reference purposes. More extensive information on, and requirements for, eye protectors with prescription lenses, which are expected to provide low impact protection, is given in this edition.

The purpose of this revision is to provide more extensive information about the practicalities and matters that should be considered when producing prescription lenses for safety eyewear, to align the recommendations in this Standard with those in the current editions of [AS/NZS 1337](#), *Eye protectors for industrial applications* and [AS/NZS 1338](#), *Filters for eye protectors*, to provide information on the selection of welding screens which meet the requirements of [AS 3957/NZS 5852](#), *Light-transmitting screens and curtains for welding operations*, and to provide guidance on the selection of eye protectors appropriate to the use of particular lasers.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD .....	5
SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	
1.1 SCOPE .....	6
1.2 OBJECTIVE .....	6
1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS .....	6
1.4 DEFINITIONS .....	7
1.5 PRINCIPLES .....	8
1.6 IDENTIFICATION OF RISK AREAS .....	8
SECTION 2 ELIMINATION OF EYE HAZARDS	
2.1 RISK OF EYE INJURIES .....	10
2.2 MAINTAINING SAFETY MEASURES .....	10
SECTION 3 CONTROL OF EYE HAZARDS	
3.1 GENERAL .....	11
3.2 SCREENS .....	11
3.3 EXHAUST SYSTEMS .....	12
3.4 OTHER METHODS .....	12
SECTION 4 USE OF PERSONAL EYE PROTECTORS	
4.1 GENERAL .....	13
4.2 SELECTION OF EYE PROTECTORS .....	13
4.3 ISSUE AND FITTING .....	19
4.4 FOGGING AND PERSPIRATION .....	19
4.5 MAINTENANCE AND REISSUE .....	19
4.6 REPLACEMENT .....	20
4.7 PROMOTING THE USE OF EYE PROTECTORS .....	20
4.8 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM .....	21
4.9 EYE PROTECTION FOR WEARERS OF CONTACT LENSES .....	21
SECTION 5 EYE PROTECTION AGAINST ULTRAVIOLET AND INFRARED RADIATION	
5.1 GUIDANCE .....	22
5.2 PROCESSES REQUIRING PROTECTION FROM ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION AND FLYING SPARKS .....	22
5.3 PROCESSES REQUIRING MODERATE REDUCTION OF VISIBLE RADIATION AND PROTECTION FROM ULTRAVIOLET AND INFRARED RADIATION .....	22
5.4 PROCESSES REQUIRING CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION OF VISIBLE RADIATION AND PROTECTION FROM ULTRAVIOLET AND INFRARED RADIATION .....	22
5.5 EYE PROTECTION FOR WELDERS .....	22
5.6 EYE PROTECTION FOR WELDERS' ASSISTANTS .....	22
5.7 EYE PROTECTION FOR PERSONS NOT ENGAGED IN WELDING OPERATIONS .....	23

5.8	EYE PROTECTION AGAINST STRAY RADIATION . . . . .	23
5.9	SKIN PROTECTION . . . . .	24
5.10	EYE PROTECTION AGAINST SOLAR RADIATION . . . . .	24
5.11	EYE PROTECTION AGAINST ULTRAVIOLET AND INFRARED RADIATION FROM CATHODE RAY TUBES DISPLAYS SUCH AS COMPUTER MONITORS AND TELEVISION SCREENS . . . . .	24
<b>SECTION 6 EYE PROTECTION AGAINST LASER RADIATION</b>		
6.1	GENERAL . . . . .	26
6.2	CLASSIFICATION OF LASER PRODUCTS . . . . .	26
6.3	PREFERRED SAFETY STRATEGY—RISK MINIMIZATION . . . . .	27
6.4	EYE PROTECTORS . . . . .	28
6.5	SKIN PROTECTION . . . . .	29
<b>SECTION 7 PRESCRIPTION EYE PROTECTORS</b>		
7.1	SCOPE OF SECTION . . . . .	33
7.2	LEVEL OF PROTECTION . . . . .	33
7.3	GENERAL . . . . .	33
7.4	REQUIREMENTS FOR LENSES . . . . .	33
7.5	EDGING OF TEMPERED LENSES . . . . .	35
7.6	REQUIREMENTS FOR FRAMES . . . . .	35
7.7	MARKING OF PRESCRIPTION EYE PROTECTORS . . . . .	35
<b>APPENDICES</b>		
A	GUIDANCE ON SELECTION OF FILTERS FOR PROTECTION AGAINST OPTICAL RADIATION GENERATED DURING WELDING AND ALLIED OPERATIONS . . . . .	37
B	GUIDANCE ON SELECTION AND USE OF FILTERS FOR PROTECTION AGAINST ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION . . . . .	39
C	GUIDANCE ON SELECTION AND USE OF FILTERS FOR PROTECTION AGAINST INFRARED RADIATION . . . . .	40
D	TEMPERING OF GLASS LENSES . . . . .	41

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## FOREWORD

An eye safety program should be introduced where persons at work are exposed to a recognized risk of injury to the eyes. Areas and processes where eye hazards may exist are shown in Table 4.1. The aim of the eye safety program should be to protect the eyes of persons through elimination or control of hazards and, where necessary, the wearing of eye protectors which take into account the visual acuity of the wearer.

While responsibility for the successful implementation of an eye safety program rests with senior management, every effort should be made to secure the participation and involvement of employees or their representatives in all phases of the program. Experience has shown that programs lacking this involvement have less chance of success.

Selection of a suitable program may be assigned to safety personnel within the organization or advice may be sought from outside sources. Elements which have been found in successful eye safety programs include the following:

- (a) Assessment of hazards.
- (b) Determination of eye hazard areas.
- (c) Elimination or confinement of eye hazards.
- (d) Vision screening.
- (e) Referral for optometrical or ophthalmological examination, or both, where necessary.
- (f) The universal wearing of suitable eye protectors for those persons at risk.
- (g) The conduct of educational campaigns.
- (h) A critical examination of working conditions, particularly lighting, layout and planning of buildings, and processes, form a necessary part of an eye safety program.

[AS 1470](#), *Health and safety at work—Principles and practices*, deals in general terms with establishing and maintaining safe working conditions. The principles set out in that Standard should be applied to the particular problems of eye protection.

Information on suitable lighting for industrial processes is given in [AS 1680.1](#), *Interior lighting, Part 1: General principles and recommendations* (for Australia) and [NZS 6703](#), *Code of practice for interior lighting design* (for New Zealand).

Assessment of laser hazards is dealt with in [AS 2211](#), *Laser safety*, and [AS 2397](#), *Safe use of lasers in the building and construction industry*.

[AS 2243.1](#), *Safety in laboratories, Part 1: General*, gives guidance on the assessment of eye hazards in laboratories.

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

**Australian/New Zealand Standard****Recommended practices for occupational eye protection**

## SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE** This Standard sets out recommended practices for the protection of the eyes of persons at work, against hazards such as flying particles, dust, splashing materials and molten metals, harmful gases, vapours and aerosols, high-intensity radiation generated during welding operations and furnace work. Guidance is given on the selection of eye protectors appropriate to the use of particular lasers. Additional guidance is provided for manufacturers and dispensers of prescription lenses on the requirements for production of prescription personal eye protectors.

This Standard addresses hazards arising from normal occupational processes. It does not address hazards resulting from machinery malfunction and misuse.

It does not cover the hazards associated with, and the necessary precautions for, laser use (which are covered in [AS 2211](#) and [AS 2397](#)) nor those arising from work with ionizing radiation. It also does not cover hazards in the workrooms of educational establishments which are covered in [AS 1485](#).

**1.2 OBJECTIVE** This Standard is intended to improve the health and safety of workers by aiding the selection and use of eye protectors, appropriate to occupational hazards.

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS** The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS	
1067	Sunglasses and fashion spectacles
<a href="#">1067.1</a>	Part 1: Safety requirements
<a href="#">1269</a>	Acoustics—Hearing conservation
<a href="#">1270</a>	Acoustics—Hearing protectors
<a href="#">1318</a>	Use of colour for the marking of physical hazards and the identification of certain equipment in industry (known as the SAA Industrial Safety Colour Code)
<a href="#">1319</a>	Safety signs for the occupational environment
<a href="#">1470</a>	Health and safety at work—Principles and practices
<a href="#">1485</a>	Safety and health in workrooms of educational establishments
1680	Interior lighting
<a href="#">1680.1</a>	Part 1: General principles and recommendations
<a href="#">1800</a>	The selection, care and use of industrial safety helmets
<a href="#">1801</a>	Industrial safety helmets
1885	Measurement of occupational health and safety performance
<a href="#">1885.1</a>	Part 1: Describing and reporting occupational injuries and disease (known as the National Standard for workplace injury and disease recording)





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