

# American National Standard

*for Ophthalmics –  
Prescription Ophthalmic Lenses –  
Recommendations*

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**ANSI**<sup>®</sup>  
**Z80.1-2015**  
Revision of  
ANSI Z80.1-2010

American National Standard  
for Ophthalmics –  
Prescription Ophthalmic Lenses –  
Recommendations

Secretariat  
**The Vision Council**

Approved August 20, 2015  
Editorially Revised January 25, 2016

**American National Standards Institute, Inc.**

# American National Standard

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## *Developed by*

The Accredited Committee Z80 for Ophthalmic Standards -

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Z80 Secretariat  
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## Published by

The Vision Council  
Z80 Secretariat  
225 Reinkers Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22314

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Printed in the United States of America

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**Foreword** (This foreword is not part of American National Standard ANSI Z80.1-2015.)

### **Summary of Changes to ANSI Z80.1 for 2015**

This 2015 revision represents the most current consensus of experts in this field. The changes from the 2010 standard are the result of a thorough study by the ANSI Z80.1 committee of the relevance and applicability of its contents.

This publication includes modifications to several portions of the standard that had not been updated for some time:

- The Scope and Purpose sections were both reworded to better reflect how the committee believes the standard should be used in today's environment;
- The definitions area was reviewed with changes and modifications;
- "Position of Wear" definitions were added in a new annex E for informational purposes, in order to help instruct others on three terms commonly used in this area. These terms are becoming more commonplace with growing popularity of newer fabrication technologies and lens designs;
- A further clarification of how tolerances should be applied to compensated lenses was added in the optical requirements section;
- A voluntary permanent lens marking standardized character ( ^ ) was added as a recommendation, to be applied on lenses that contain such compensation;
- Other modifications to the marking guidelines were also made;
- Another new addition to the standard was included in the area of transmittance, where a recommendation for minimum transmittance when driving was added. The new section provides guidance and is intended to harmonize with ANSI Z80.3 requirements in this area;
- Reference to orientation of polarization axis was added;
- The "FDA Impact" guidelines were again included, with an additional sentence added to refer the reader to the specific authoritative source which should be referenced on this topic, the Federal Register;
- Following the recent publication of the revised Standard ANSI Z80.1-2015, a typographical was identified in the formula for the calculation of UVB mean transmittance in subclause 8.13. The error has been corrected and the correct formula is now listed in subclause 8.13.

### **Background and Summary of Past revisions for ANSI Z80.1**

The Z80 Standards Committee for Ophthalmic Lenses was organized in 1956. Three separate standards were drafted, two relating to the manufacture of lenses and one to the fabrication of ophthalmic lenses into prescription eyewear. A standard relating mainly to lenses, but containing additional tolerances for a mounted pair, was issued in 1964. The tolerances were based largely upon an analysis of measured parameters in typical single-vision, mass-produced lenses assembled into conservatively styled and sized mountings. The standard represented the state-of-the-art for such lenses and a set of quality goals for lenses surfaced in the ophthalmic laboratory on an individual basis.

At the beginning of 1970, the Standards Committee Z80 was reorganized with the Optical Society of America, its former sponsor, serving as Secretariat. In 1972, the committee's scope was broadened to include lenses other than prescription glass ophthalmic lenses in recognition of the importance of plastic ophthalmic materials

and the increased use of sunglasses and fashion eyewear. In the 1972 revision, certain tolerances for plastic and heat-treated lenses were relaxed in response to Federally mandated impact-resistant requirements for all ophthalmic lenses.

The 1979 revision reflected a shift in utilization from mass-produced lenses to a basic dependence upon custom-processed lenses at the laboratory level. It was an attempt to define the state-of-the-art in the manufacturing laboratory by recognizing the fact that, while individual tolerances may be reliably met, it is often not possible to achieve all requirements simultaneously. The Standard expressed desirable technical concepts that provide a framework for safety and effectiveness. The title was changed from a "requirement" to a "recommendation" to reflect the committee's intent.

In 1982, the Optical Laboratories Association assumed the responsibilities of the Secretariat. In 1985, the Z80 Committee became an Accredited Standards Committee.

The 1995 revision attempted to write the Z80.1 standard in a fashion consistent with ISO standards. This change included the practice of applying a tolerance to both meridional powers rather than sphere and cylinder as had been common practice. It was subsequently found that applying the ISO power tolerance method to custom fabricated eyewear resulted in unacceptably high rejection rates.

The 2005 revision recognized the need for change in the power tolerance methodology. This standard maintained the ISO approach to power tolerance, but used the highest meridian only rather than both meridians. For the first time since 1979, the mounted cylinder axis tolerance was adjusted based upon detailed scientific studies and a recognition of process capability and wearer needs. The difference in refractive power tolerance between progressive addition lenses and single vision and multifocal lenses reflects the fact that the tolerance on allowable cylinder in the semi-finished blank curvature for progressive addition lenses in ISO standards is looser than the tolerance on single vision and standard multifocals. The tolerance for cylinder axis uses as its basis the amount of axis error that would be needed to result in an error of 0.13 D (the tolerance for cylinder refractive power). Additionally, the section on the lens measurement method has been rewritten to include automatic focimeters and better describe the method for measuring prism.

In January 2009 the Vision Council assumed responsibility for Secretariat.

The 2010 revision included several important areas of revision. The first change related to a transmission power tolerance, where the practice of using the sphere and cylinder (when expressed in minus notation) was again utilized. Two durability requirements for this revision were adapted from published ISO standards: Specifications and test methods for anti-reflective coatings and Minimum requirements for spectacle lens surfaces claimed to be abrasion resistant.

The standard remains a recommendation. Therefore, it is the specific intent of the Z80 Committee that this standard not be used as a regulatory instrument.

This standard contains six informative annexes, which are not considered part of the standard.

Suggestions for improvement of this standard will be welcome. Suggestions should be sent to The Vision Council, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 700, Alexandria, VA 22314.

This standard was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the Accredited Standards Committee Z80 (ASC Z80). Committee approval of this standard does not necessarily imply that all committee members voted for its approval. At the time it approved this standard, ASC Z80 had the following members:

Thomas C. White, M.D., Chair  
 Guido Cappelli, Vice-Chair  
 William J. Benjamin, O.D., Secretary

<i>Organization Represented</i>	<i>Name of Representative</i>
Abbott Medical Optics (AMO) .....	Leonard Borrmann Mark Gordon (Alt.)
Advance Medical Technologies Association.....	Michael Pfleger Dr. Richard Courtney (Alt.)
American Academy of Ophthalmology .....	Dr. Thomas White Dr. Carl Tubbs (Alt.) Dr. Pradeep Ramulu (Alt.) Scott Haber (Alt.)
American Academy of Optometry.....	Dr. David Loshin
American Ceramic Society .....	Lyle Rubin
American Glaucoma Society .....	Dr. Steven Gedde Douglas Rhee (Alt.)
American Optometric Association.....	Karl Citek Dr. Robert Rosenberg (Alt.) Dr. William Benjamin (Alt.)
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) .....	Dr. Stephen Klyce Dr. Jack Holladay (Alt.)
Contact Lens Institute .....	Stan Rogaski Peter Mathers (Alt.)
Contact Lens Manufacturers Association .....	Guido Cappelli Troy Miller (Alt.)
Department of Veterans Affairs .....	Dr. John Townsend Michael White (Alt.)
Federated Cornea Societies .....	Dr. Michael Belin Dr. David Glasser (Alt.) Kathy Colby (Alt.) Elmer Tu (Alt.)
Food & Drug Administration CDRH/ Division of Federal Agencies .....	Don Calogero Dr. Dexiu Shi (Alt.)
National Association of Optometrists & Opticians .....	Nick Mileti Doug Pelkey (Alt.) Franklin Rozak (Alt.)
Optical Laboratories Association .....	Steve Sutherlin Rick Tinson (Alt.)
Opticians Association of America .....	Tom Hicks Chris Allen (Alt.)
Sunglass Association of America .....	Tibor Gross Nick Brown (Alt.) Rick Van Arnem (Alt.)
The Vision Council.....	Michael Vitale Neil Roche (Alt.) Dick Whitney (Alt.)
U.S. ISO TC 172/SC7.....	Jeff Endres

The Subcommittee on Prescription Ophthalmic Lenses, which developed this standard, had the following members at the time of approval:

Richard Whitney, Chair  
Rick Tinson, Vice-Chair

Rick Albright  
William Brown  
Karl Citek  
Keith Cross  
Jeff Endres  
Ken Frederick  
Pete Hanlin  
Tom Hicks  
David Hilber  
Herbert Hoover  
Darryl Meister  
Nick Milet  
Doug Pelkey  
Neil Roché  
Robert Rosenberg  
Lyle Rubin  
Jonathan Schwartz  
Daniel Simonetta  
Michael Vitale  
Greg Williams



## American National Standard for Ophthalmics –

# Prescription Ophthalmic Lenses – Recommendations

## 1 Scope and Purpose

### 1.1 Scope

This standard applies to all prescription dress ophthalmic spectacle lenses in edged or assembled form. It is a guideline for entities that fabricate, assemble or process dress eyewear or lens components. Relevant optical and physical specifications and tolerances of this standard also apply to uncut lenses.

This standard does not apply to products covered by

- ANSI Z80.3, *American National Standard for Ophthalmics – Nonprescription sunglass and fashion eyewear requirements*
- ANSI Z80.31, *American National Standard for Ophthalmics – Specifications for single vision ready to wear near vision spectacles*
- ANSI Z87.1, *American National Standard for Occupational and educational personal eye and face protection devices*
- ASTM F803, *Eye protectors for selected sports*

### 1.2 Purpose

This standard reflects the shift in utilization from mass-produced lenses to a basic dependence upon custom-processed lenses. It provides minimum acceptable tolerances for new lenses prepared to an individual prescription.

The power, prism, and axis tolerances established in this standard are subject to measurement limitations associated with the accuracy and repeatability of the current state-of-the-art focimetry and other measurements commonly in use by laboratory technicians and eyecare professionals. Users should therefore take into account the measurement capability of the devices (and methodology) when applying tolerances to the spectacle lens. As such, this voluntary standard expresses technical concepts that provide a frame of reference for safety and effectiveness.