

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Personal eye protection

**Part 6: Prescription eye protectors
against low and medium impact**



AS/NZS 1337.6:2007

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF-006, Eye Protection. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 1 March 2007 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 30 March 2007.

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The following are represented on Committee SF-006:

Guild of Dispensing Opticians (Australia)
NSW Rural Fire Service
New Zealand Association of Optometrists
New Zealand Employers and Manufacturers Association
Optical Distributors and Manufacturers Association of Australia
Optometrists Association Australia
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PREFACE

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by the Joint Technical Committee SF-006, Eye Protection.

This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (May 2008). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.

Although prescription eye protectors receive some attention in AS/NZS 1336, *Recommended practices for eye protection in the industrial environment*, and in AS/NZS 1337:1992, *Eye protectors for industrial applications* it was felt that a Standard dealing specifically with minimum safety requirements for prescription eye protectors was necessary for areas where low and medium impact from flying particles and fragments from industrial and non-industrial operations occurs.

The Committee is reviewing AS/NZS 1337:1992 and a revised version is planned to be released as AS/NZS 1337.1. This will bring consistency to the numbering of this series of Standards.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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FOREWORD

In occupational health and safety, there is a recognized hierarchy of hazard control measures, based on the principle that hazards should be removed by 'engineering out', and that personal protective equipment is a last line of defence. Creation of this new Standard was in response to a demand to formalize and to establish clear guidance for those situations where eye protection and correction of vision are required at the same time.

Committee SF-006 has considered this demand in conjunction with its review of AS/NZS 1337:1992 and proposed that recommendations for prescription eye protection should no longer be referenced only in AS/NZS 1336 under guidance for selection and use, but that they should form a separate Standard with minimum requirements and test methods.

This Standard provides minimum performance requirements, as well as methods for impact resistance and eye protection for prescription eye protectors.

Validation of prescription eye protectors using this Standard is based on type testing of specific protective products and random testing of manufactured items to ensure ongoing compliance. This process eliminates the necessity for testing every prescription eye protection item provided to wearers. Prescription lenses are manufactured individually to the unique visual requirements of the wearer and impact testing of eye protectors to determine their compliance is likely to make the protector unfit for use.

Requirements for the protection of prescription eye protector wearers are unique and the objective of this Standard is to promote improvements in practices and the reduction of incidences of eye damage in occupational situations.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

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SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies minimum requirements for eye protectors fitted with prescription lenses intended to provide low or medium impact eye protection from flying particles and fragments in occupational situations. It does not apply to eye protectors in which the prescription lenses are fitted behind the plano protective lenses. These are covered by AS/NZS 1337.

1.2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Standard is to provide regulatory authorities, manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers, employers, employees and other users with minimum requirements for protection against low and medium impact in order to minimize safety risks and occupational hazards by the use of appropriate prescription eye protectors.

1.3 APPLICATION

Prescription eye protectors complying with this Standard are intended to give both impact protection and prescribed refractive correction of vision.

For protection from hazards other than low or medium impact, appropriate protection as recommended in AS/NZS 1336 should also be worn covering the prescription eyewear, e.g. dust, splashing materials, molten materials, harmful gases, vapours or aerosols, high energy flying particles or fragments. These are covered in AS/NZS 1337. Requirements for protection from sources of optical radiation, other than the sun, are covered in AS/NZS 1338 Parts 1 to 3.

1.4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

2228 Spectacles

2228.1 Part 1: Spectacle lenses

AS/NZS

1336 Recommended practices for occupational eye protection

1337 Eye protectors for industrial applications

1338 Filters for eye protectors

1338.1 Part 1: Filters for protection against radiation generated in welding and allied operations

1338.2 Part 2: Filters for protection against ultraviolet radiation

1338.3 Part 3: Filters for protection against infra-red radiation