



METAL INDUSTRY SAFE WORK TIPS

EYE PROTECTION

Working in the metal industry, you need to be especially careful about protecting your eyes. Eye injuries in the industry are common, but the good news is they're easy to prevent, by using the proper eye protection for the job you're doing.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On average, eye injuries make up around 20% of the injuries that happen to metal industry workers every year.

Around 80% of these injuries are caused by a foreign body (such as metal or dust debris) in the eye. Unfortunately, around 3-4 workers every year lose sight in an eye, as the result of a workplace accident.

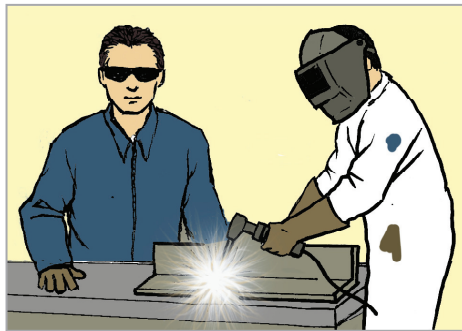
WHAT PROTECTION SHOULD YOU USE?

The type of protection you should use depends on the job you're doing.

TYPE OF JOB	RECOMMENDED EYE PROTECTION
Working with off-hand spindles (eg, cutting, grinding, cleaning, polishing, finishing)	Full face shield This will protect the eyes (and face) from hot particles or fragmenting tools
Cleaning enclosed spindles (ie, interlocked, fully guarded equipment)	Goggles
Working with cylinder grinders	Goggles
Working with unenclosed spindles other than cylinder grinders (eg, centre lathes, mills, pedestal grinders)	Safety glasses with side shields
Forging and casting operations	High-impact face shield (light tinting may also be required to reduce radiation)
Cutting, punching, pressing, bending	Impact-resistant safety glasses with side shields
Chemical fluid based operations (eg, chemical milling, etching, painting, pickling, powder coating, compressed air use)	Full face shield
Working with fine powders	Close-fitting chemical-resistant goggles

Continued overleaf...

TYPE OF JOB	RECOMMENDED EYE PROTECTION
Welding and cutting (eg, gas, plasma arc) operations	<p>Gas welding and cutting: goggles with appropriate filter lenses.</p> <p>Electric arc welding and cutting: Face shield (helmet) fitted with the correct shade of filter lens. Note: The shading response time of electronic welding hoods may vary between brands. Always check the response time before purchase to avoid 'arc eye' in the workplace.</p>



EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

As an employer, you are responsible for:

- providing your employees with appropriate eye protection
- ensuring damaged eye protection is replaced immediately
- training staff how to use and care for their eye protection
- ensuring all staff wear appropriate eye protection when required.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON KEEPING SAFE IN THE METAL INDUSTRY,
CHECK OUT THE 'METAL INDUSTRY GUIDELINES FOR SAFE WORK'.
THERE'S A COPY IN YOUR WORKPLACE.**

Department of Labour
TE TARI MAHI

