



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
POST OFFICE BOX 867
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CESWL-SO (385-10)

5 December 2001

DISTRICT COMMANDER'S POLICY MEMORANDUM NO. 02-03

SUBJECT: Eye Protection

1. References.

- a. SWLR 385-1-1, Safety and Occupational Health – General Policy, dated 4 June 2001.
- b. Agreement between the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 2219 and US Army Engineer District, Little Rock (SWL), Article 31.14 dated 12 June 2001.
- c. EM 385-1-1, dated 3 September 1996, US Army Corps of Engineers Safety and Health Requirements Manual.
- d. DA PAM 385-3, Revised 1975.
- e. American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-Standard Z87.1 dated 1989.

2. Purpose. The purpose of this regulation is to provide guidelines to Little Rock District (SWL) operations managers, supervisors, and employees regarding eye protection and the purchase of prescription eyewear

3. Applicability. This memorandum is applicable to all Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District activities.

4. Employee Safety. The Little Rock District Corps of Engineers requires employees to work safely and encourages and promotes safe work practices for all employees. Accordingly, the district provides appropriate tools, clothing, and safety equipment, including eye protection.

5. Eye Safety in the Work Place. According to the National Safety Council, 75 percent of all eye injuries occur from material impacting the eye at angles other than straight ahead. That means material entering the eye from the top, bottom and sides. Safety glasses, goggles, and face shields are intended to provide protection against flying particles.

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6. Position Hazard Analysis. Supervisors should insure that each employee has a Position Hazard Analysis (PHA). The Safety Office, in coordination with the supervisor, prepares the PHA, by job title specifically for the individual employee. For each employee job and sequence of job steps, the PHA identifies potential hazards, recommends prescribed actions or procedures, and recommends personal protective equipment. Each PHA states, "If safety glasses are worn more than 10% of the job time, then prescription safety glasses are recommended if prescription glasses are normally worn."

7. Activity Hazard Analysis. Before beginning each activity involving a type of work presenting hazards not experienced in previous project operations that involve hazardous activities, supervisors shall prepare an Activity Hazard Analysis (AHA). The analysis will define the activities being performed and identify the sequences of work, the specific hazards anticipated and the control measures to be implemented to eliminate or reduce each hazard to an acceptable level. An AHA shall be prepared and documented for each SWL activity as warranted by the hazards associated with the activity. The Safety Office will assist in preparation of the Activity Hazard Analysis.

8. Appropriate Eye and Face Protection.

a. Table 1, Appendix S, of Reference 1a, should be used as a guide for selection of appropriate eye and face protection.

b. Some jobs present eye hazards that are best managed by goggles and face shield rated as primary eye protection. Some examples are, using a chain saw, chemical use, or brush clearing. Most of the non prescription safety glasses and face shields purchased in the District worn over prescription glasses, meet ANSI Z 87.1 requirements as a secondary form of eye protection, not primary. A secondary form of eye protection must be used in conjunction with a primary form of eye protection. This means the worker would need prescription safety glasses under the generic secondary form of eye protection, whether goggles or face shield.

c. The face shield is classified in Section 6.2 of the ANSI Z87.1 standard as a secondary protector. If a worker wears prescription glasses, but also must wear a face shield in the course of their work, they must also wear a primary protector under the face shield. This primary protection could be prescription safety glasses with side shields if the employees normally wear prescription glasses.

9. Purchase of Prescription Eye Wear for Employees. Supervisors will purchase prescription eyewear and eye examinations on a case-by-case basis for employees under the following conditions.

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a. The Position Hazard Analysis and/or Activity Hazard Analysis must support that eye protection is required at least 10% of the time.

b. Prescription eyewear must meet the ANSI Z87.1 standard for design, construction, testing and use as a primary form of eye protection. Side shields must be permanent fixtures on the prescription glasses, and the frames must be substantial enough to lend sturdy protection. Designer frames with flimsy removable side shields do not meet the intent of safety eyewear, which is to protect the worker from eye hazards from as many angles as possible.

c. Procurement of prescription safety glasses will be conducted on a standard Corps of Engineers Financial Management System (CEFMS) electronic Form 3953.

d. Government Prescription eyewear must be ordered from the U.S. Department of Justice, UNICOR, which offers a complete line of eyewear in a wide variety of quality lenses, and frames that meet the ANSI Z87.1 and part 19101.33 of the OSHA Regulations. For additional information, contact UNICOR at 919-575-2050 or online at www.unicor.gov. A waiver must be obtained from UNICOR in order to utilize other providers of prescription eyewear.

e. When the prescription changes, replacement glasses will be provided. Retesting for prescription eyewear is permitted every two years.

10. Safety is first and foremost.

11. POC is the Safety Office at (501)-324-5616.



BENJAMIN H. BUTLER
Colonel, US Army
Commanding

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