

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Personal eye protection

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

STANDARDS
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AS/NZS 1337.6:2012

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee SF-006, Eye and Face Protection. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 18 May 2012 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 28 May 2012.

This Standard was published on 22 June 2012.

The following are represented on Committee SF-006:

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Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Dispensing Opticians Association
Australian Industry Group
Economic Development Agencies of New Zealand
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS/NZS 1337.6.

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Original was AS/NZS 1337.6:2007.
Second edition 2012.

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Jointly published by SAI Global Limited under licence from Standards Australia Limited, GPO Box 476, Sydney, NSW 2001 and by Standards New Zealand, Private Bag 2439, Wellington 6140

ISBN 978 1 74342 167 3

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee SF-006, Eye and Face Protection, to supersede AS/NZS 1337.6:2007, *Personal eye protection, Part 6: Prescription eye protectors against low and medium impact*.

Although prescription eye protectors receive some attention in AS/NZS 1336, *Recommended practices for occupational eye protection*, and in AS/NZS 1337.1:2010, *Personal eye protection, Part 1: Eye and face protectors for occupational 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 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.

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 practice and the reduction of incidences of eye damage in occupational situations.

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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 plano protective lenses. These are covered by AS/NZS 1337.1.

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 1337.1. 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/NZS
1336 Recommended practices for occupational eye protection
1337 Personal eye protection
1337.0 Part 0 Eye and face protectors—Vocabulary
1337.1 Part 1: Eye and face protectors for occupational 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
AS/NZS ISO
21987 Ophthalmic optics—Mounted spectacle lenses