

LOSS CONTROL BULLETIN

Personal Protective Equipment for Eyes

Landscape and horticultural workers face the danger of eye injuries on a daily basis. Operating mowers, blowers, edgers, trimmers and chippers means being exposed to flying debris. Employers must take the lead in providing the correct eye protection to their workers to reduce the number and severity of injuries.

The OSHA Standard

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulates worker safety as it relates to eye protection via OSHA standard 1910.132a. Essentially, the standard requires the employer to conduct a workplace hazard assessment; to provide training to workers as to the eye injury dangers they may face and how to avoid them; and to provide eye protection whenever necessary. Note: Other state and local laws may apply. Employers should consider consulting trade associations as well as a lawyer familiar with OSHA, state and local safety regulations for additional information.

Safety Glasses Standards

- The minimum standard for safety glasses is set forth by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
- The ANSI standard for general eye and face protection is ANSI standard Z87.1, while the ANSI standard for high impact protection is Z87.2.
- If an employee wears prescription glasses, additional safety goggles that fit comfortably over the glasses should be worn.

Preventative Measures

Safety glasses are not a total solution - training employees to perform their job in a consistently safe manner is equally important in preventing eye injuries. Consider implementing the following measures:

- Reduce flying debris by taking a minute to walk a client's property to remove stones, sticks and other debris that may kick up when mowing.
- Train employees to never put their faces near equipment discharge areas.

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FAMILY OF COMPANIES

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- Make sure employees wear safety glasses (as well as gloves and masks) when mixing and applying insecticides.
- Inspect protective eyewear on a regular basis and keep the eyewear clean and sanitary.
- Enforce the wearing of safety glass to create a culture of employee safety compliance.
- Train employees on proper equipment operation and confirm equipment safety guards are in place and uncompromised.



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