



2600SEG104

STANDARD - PRESCRIPTION SAFETY GLASSES PROGRAM

1.0 PURPOSE

Establish safety requirements to prevent eye injuries of employees that require prescription glasses to perform their daily work.

2.0 BACKGROUND

This standard updates and complements the criteria established in the Risk Control and Occupational Health Regulation of the Panama Canal Authority.

3.0 SCOPE

This standard is applicable to all employees of the Panama Canal Authority (ACP).

4.0 LEGAL FOUNDATION

Agreement No. 12 of the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Authority, Risk Control and Occupational Health Regulation, Chapter I, Article 3.

5.0 DEFINITIONS

5.1 Prescription safety glasses: eyeglasses with corrective lenses that are manufactured according to the prescription issued to the user by an optometrist or ophthalmologist and that are intended to be used as eye protection at the work place.

6.0 GENERAL

6.1 All employees that are routinely or continuously exposed to dangers that may cause eye injuries shall utilize prescription safety glasses according to the specifications established by the Safety and Industrial Hygiene Unit (RSHS).

6.1.1 The dangers that may cause eye injuries include, but are not limited to sparks, molten metals, and airborne particles of hard materials such as: metals, concrete, wood, and others.

6.2 Workers also considered to be exposed routinely and continuously to dangers that may cause eye injuries are electricians, mechanics, welders, riggers, fitters and operators of the following machines: polishers, lathes, drills, hydraulic tools and others, as well as the supervisors of the aforementioned operations or those that continuously enter or work in areas where these dangers are present.

6.3 Those workers that are not exposed to the dangers mentioned in paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2, routinely and continuously, do not qualify to receive prescription safety glasses.

6.3.1 Those workers shall use safety goggles that may be placed on top of regular prescription glasses (known as "*wrap-around*"). Some of the types of occupations that do not qualify for safety glasses include: drivers, computer operators, personnel that handle lines on ships and at the locks, boat operators, locomotive operators, tailors, personnel that goes on board ships, janitors, personnel of moving companies, personnel that handles cargo and boxes (for example: Mail Unit employees) and those that work on a non-routinely basis through the areas of risk.

7.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

STANDARD PROGRAM OF SAFETY GLASSES WITH PRESCRIPTION 2600SEG104

7.1 All employees shall receive orientation regarding the care and limitations of the prescribed lenses.

7.2 Management is responsible for:

7.2.1 Providing prescription safety lenses to those employees that need them according to what is established in this standard.

7.3 Supervisors are responsible for:

7.3.1 Making sure that the employees under their direction utilize the safety lenses appropriately.

7.3.2 Verifying that the prescription safety lenses that are delivered to the employees are kept in good conditions.

7.4 Employees are responsible for:

7.4.1 Contacting an eyeglass provider, authorized by the Panama Canal Authority, and submit to the section manager, a prescription dated within one (1) month of having been issued.

7.4.2 Utilizing prescription safety glasses during working hours in risk areas.

7.4.3 Caring for, inspecting, and safekeeping the safety glasses provided for them; keeping the safety glasses in good hygienic and operative conditions.

7.4.4 Inform the supervisor whenever the prescription safety glasses need to be replaced due to normal wear or a change in the medical prescription.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

All information or clarification about the content or application of this standard shall be requested to the Safety and Industrial Hygiene Unit (RHSH).

9.0 EXCEPTIONS

Working conditions in the diverse areas are different. If any employee or supervisor considers that his situation should be rated differently, he should communicate with the Safety Specialist of his area to evaluate the risks. The Safety Specialist shall send his recommendations to the Supervisor of the Safety and Industrial Hygiene Unit (RHSH) who shall evaluate the situation and shall decide whether to approve the acquisition of prescription safety glasses.

10.0 DURATION

This standard is effective until it is modified or revised.

11.0 REFERENCES

11.1 Financial Systems Handbook, MSF 1.005 Responsibility and safekeeping of work tools and equipment.