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EMPHASIS ON HAZARDS, PRODUCT MARKINGS FOCUS OF UPDATED EYE AND FACE PROTECTION STANDARD

ARLINGTON, Va. (April 15, 2010) – An updated national consensus standard for safety eyewear now includes expanded criteria and test requirements for hazard-specific protectors and detailed language for minimum coverage and side protection.

The *American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protective Devices* (ANSI/ISEA Z87.1-2010) prescribes the design, performance specifications, and marking of safety eye and face products, including millions of safety goggles, spectacles, faceshields, and welding helmets, worn by workers in thousands of university laboratories, manufacturing and research facilities, and other occupational and business settings.

It was developed by the Z87 Committee on Safety Eye and Face Protection, which is administered by the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA), and approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

One of the major changes from its predecessor versions is how the standard is organized, with focus on the hazard exposure rather than protector configuration. “Regardless of protector type, the risk to the wearer remains the same. With the end-user in mind, the Committee agreed early-on that the standard should represent a more hazard-based approach,” said Dan Torgersen, Vice President of Walman Optical (Minneapolis, Minn.) and Chairman of the Z87 Committee.

“This hazard-based approach encourages users and employers to evaluate the specific hazards in their work environment, and to make the selection of appropriate eye and face protection based on this assessment.”

The revised document also includes evaluation criteria against splash, dust and mist hazards and provides product markings to allow the user to easily identify these performance attributes on any given protector. “Manufacturers will play an important role in educating users on matching the hazard against which protection is needed with the marking on the product,” noted Torgersen. “This is being done in other areas of the world, and the Z87.1 standard attempts to harmonize with already-existing global documents and safety practices.”

American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protective Devices (ANSI/ISEA Z87.1-2010) includes a “Selection Chart” that can be posted to provide guidance on the selection of eye and face protection based on hazards in the working environment.

The standard can be purchased from ISEA for \$57 a copy; discounts are available on bulk orders. For more information, contact Cristine Z. Fargo, ISEA director of member and technical services, cfargo@safetyequipment.org, or visit www.safetyequipment.org.

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Arlington, VA-based International Safety Equipment Association is the leading trade association for manufacturers of safety and personal protective equipment. Established in 1933, ISEA supports its 70-plus members in manufacturing and marketing the highest-quality products to protect the safety and health of people who may be exposed to hazardous and potentially harmful environments while working on the job or at home. Visit www.safetyequipment.org.