

FRANK'S REPORT:

The New ANSI Standards: How Do They Affect You?

INTRODUCTION:

There's so much to talk about. I didn't even know there was an old standard. Of course, since this actually came out in 2003 I guess you could say it's aging quite nicely. And so we're all clear ANSI means American National Standards Institute, and not Angie's National Swimsuit Institute. Now, let's pinpoint exactly what we're talking about here. The standard in question is the ANSI Z87.1-2003 standard. Cute name huh?

I built a robot that I named Z81, but it has yet to speak to me. I built him years ago and off he went into the sunset. I heard he was in the movie business, and went by the stage name Johnny Five.

Anyway, back to the standard. Look, I don't want to hassle you with a textbook explanation here, so I'll give you the cliff notes version. I might even throw in the cliff notes version of "What I Ate Yesterday."

I'm going to tell you the things you need to know. So without further ado, let's jump waist deep into this fun ship.

LEVELS OF PROTECTION:

The new standard clarifies two different levels of protection. Aptly named basic impact and high impact safety glasses.

These classifications are based on various testing criteria. Let's see if you can answer one of these test questions right. A small projectile leaves a high torque machine at three o'clock traveling 150 feet per second. A second projectile... I'm kidding.

A basic impact lens must pass the "drop ball" test. In this test a 1 inch steel ball is dropped on the lens from 50 inches. A high impact lens must pass the "high velocity" test. In this test, 1/4 inch steel balls are shot at the velocity of 150 feet per second at the lens.

Every frame must now meet the high impact requirement, which eliminates cheating from safety glass manufacturers. There used to be some shady dealings going on. Now, safety glasses are tested as a complete unit.

The good thing for you is that most safety glasses meet the high impact standards, and in fact, every pair of safety glasses on <http://www.safetyglassesinc.com> meets the high impact standards.

PRODUCT MARKINGS:

The new standard requires the level of protection to be printed on every pair of new safety glasses.

The basic impact safety glasses are marked with the manufacturers' logo and a simple "Z87". For example, if I started selling my own safety glasses (still in production), and my company symbol was "F2K", the marking on my glasses would read "F2K Z87".

The high impact safety glasses are marked with the manufacturers' logo and the "Z87" followed by a "+". Using my awesome company above, my high impact safety glasses would be marked with a "F2K Z87+".

All of our glasses are high impact rated; therefore, every pair of safety glasses on www.safetyglassesinc.com includes the "Z87+" marking.

SIDESHIELD COVERAGE INCREASED:

Side shield coverage, whether it's built into the lens, part of the frame, or an individual piece, have been increased. By how much? Let's put it this way, do you get claustrophobic in plastic fish tanks? I'm kidding, again.

The side coverage has been increased by a measly, but helpful, 10 millimeters. For those of you that don't know the metric system I have provided the following link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metric_system.

The increase occurs back towards the face giving you the previously mentioned 10 millimeters of coverage. Here's the catch. According to the standard, additional side coverage is not required, but highly recommended. However, OSHA, Safety's Big Brother, requires side protection on safety glasses wherever flying particle hazards exist. So, you do the math... in metric.

MINIMUM LENS THICKNESS:

In the days of the old standards, a minimum lens thickness was required. The old standard stated that a high impact lens must be at least 2 millimeters thick. This was when size did matter.

Of course, due to the advancements in technology this standard is no longer necessary. Let me put it this way, if the lens works it works. Besides, the new wraparound styles offer more protection than before. I think we're making progress.

CLOSING:

So, you're all caught up on the codes, standards and regulations. Phew, we did it. The only other important thing to remember is OSHA's basic code, which roughly says (paraphrasing), "If there's a chance that crap could go into your eye, wear something that will keep the crap from hurting your eye. If this danger exists it should be provided by the boss." So there you have it. I'm confident that you're comfortable with these regulations and what they mean. Remember that all of Safety Glasses Inc.'s safety glasses meet all regulations.



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