



CIRCULAR TO DEPARTMENTS AND AUTHORITIES NO. 3 OF 2010

**LABOUR RELATIONS POLICY STATEMENT – PRESCRIPTION SAFETY
GLASSES AMENDED**

This Circular replaces Circular to Departments and Authorities NO 6 of 2006 - Labour Relations Policy Statement – Prescription Safety Glasses.

Attached is the public sector policy statement on prescription safety glasses.

The policy has been updated and amended to include the following additional provisions:

POLICY PRINCIPLES:

- Eye protection is compliant with the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996

POLICY STATEMENT:

- AS/NZS 1337.6:2007 Personal Eye Protection – Prescription Eye Protectors Against Low and Medium Impact
- Where a new version of AS/NZS 1336 or AS/NZS 1337.6 is published, eye protection must comply with the latest version.
- Where a new version of AS/NZS 1337 is published, eye protection must be compliant with the version specified in the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996*.

The policy:

- re-states the Government's commitment to providing, as far as is practicable, a work environment in which employees are not exposed to hazards; and, where it is not possible to avoid hazards then appropriate protective equipment must be provided;

- requires agencies to meet the full cost of appropriate prescription safety glasses, up to a reasonable maximum; and
- provides the flexibility for agencies to develop operational policies specific to working environments.

The policy is to be read in conjunction with the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*.

Please contact your Labour Relations Adviser if you require further information.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Horstman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

BOB HORSTMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LABOUR RELATIONS

9 February 2010

PRESCRIPTION SAFETY GLASSES

POLICY OBJECTIVE

- *Prescription safety glasses are provided where it is not possible to eliminate or control eye hazards and employees require optical aids.*

POLICY PRINCIPLES

- *In accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984, employers must aim to provide, as far as practicable, a work environment in which employees are not exposed to hazards.*
- *Where it is not possible to avoid hazards, then appropriate protective equipment must be provided.*
- *Eye protection is compliant with the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996*

POLICY STATEMENT

- Agencies have responsibility for the full cost of appropriate prescription safety glasses for all employees, up to a reasonable maximum. When circumstances require, permanent, fixed term contract and casual employees are to be provided with personal protective equipment which complies with the appropriate standards and legislative requirements.
- Where prescription safety glasses are required, agencies are to develop operational policies which:
 - require employees to provide confirmation to agencies that optical aids are necessary to undertake their duties. Confirmation is to be in the form of a prescription from an optometrist, ophthalmologist, medical practitioner or other appropriately qualified persons;
 - require employees to provide evidence that the prescription safety glasses are compliant with the following Australian/New Zealand Standards at the date of purchase:
 - AS/NZS 1336:1997 – Recommended practices for occupational eye protection; and
 - AS/NZS 1337:1992 – Eye protectors for industrial applications; and
 - AS/NZS 1337.6:2007 Personal Eye Protection – prescription eye protectors against low and medium impact; and
 - considers limits for reasonable costs, and conditions under which prescription safety glasses are replaced.
- Where a new version of AS/NZS 1336 or AS/NZS 1337.6 is published, eye protection must comply with the latest version.
- Where a new version of AS/NZS 1337 is published, eye protection must be compliant with the version specified in the Occupational Safety and health Regulations 1996.
- Agency policies will also take into consideration associated factors, including:
 - hazards associated with particular duties or areas;

- nature of the risk to the eyes;
 - conditions under which employees are working; and
 - visual requirements of the duties.
- This policy is read in conjunction with awards and agreements and the more favourable provisions applied.

PRESCRIPTION SAFETY GLASSES