

FACE PROTECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the categories of face and eye protection?

There are a wide range of products starting from simple goggles and safety glasses through to welding shields, mesh visors for forestry work and specialised clear and tinted face screens. Face screen materials can be acetate, triacetate and polycarbonate, offering different levels of protection against heat, glare and UV radiation. Face screens may be either freestanding, fixed to helmets or browguards.

What type of face screen should be used for higher impact resistance?

A full assessment of the risks in the working environment should be made initially to fully understand your requirements. If impact requirement is necessary choose a face screen with the impact options within EN166 depending on the level required. These can be F, low energy impact or B, medium energy impact or a high energy impact -see table below.

What specific performance indicators should be considered in face protection selection?

As indicated above there are various protection options within EN 166. Face screens can, for instance be approved to the option for non adherence of Molten metal or protection against liquid droplets/splashes. See table below for full details of the various options within EN 166.

Explanation of EN 166 personal eye protection options

Standard	Symbol	Explanation
EN 166	1	Optical Class
EN 166	A	High Energy Impact
EN 166	B	Medium Energy Impact
EN 166	F	Low Energy Impact
EN 166	T	Resistance to high speed particles at extremes of temperature
EN 166	9	Non adherence of molten metal and resistance to penetration of hot solids
EN 166	3	Protection against liquid droplets/splashes
EN 166	8	Protection against Short Circuit Electric Arc.
EN 169	3	Filters for personal eye-protection equipment used in welding and similar operations Scale number 3
EN 169	5	Welding and braze welding of heavy metals. Welding with emissive fluxes(notably light alloys). Oxygen Cutting
EN 169	8	Filters for personal eye-protection equipment. Used in welding and similar operations Scale number 8
EN 170	3-1,2	For use with sources which emit predominantly Ultra violet radiation at wave lengths shorter than 313nm and when glare is not an important factor. This covers the UVC and most of the UVB bands. Low pressure mercury lamps such as germicidal lamps.
EN 171	4-8	Protection against infra red radiation filters. Typical application in terms of mean temperature sources up to 1800°C

Sources of further information

Contact the following for further information on PPE:

- Your PPE manufacturer, ie Centurion Safety Products Ltd
- Your PPE distributor
- The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Tel: Refer to your local HSE branch
See Yellow pages or local directory for telephone number
- The British Safety Industry Federation (BSIF) Tel: 01745 585600