



**University Safety Service**  
Queen's University Belfast  
Room 01.036  
Level 1  
Administration Building  
Belfast  
BT7 1NN

Tel: 028 9097 4613  
Email: [safety@qub.ac.uk](mailto:safety@qub.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.qub.ac.uk/so](http://www.qub.ac.uk/so)

### **Personal Protective Equipment: Prescription Safety Glasses**

The University issues safety glasses only where their need has been established by risk assessment (e.g. to protect against reasonably foreseeable risks of eye injury). The safety glasses are supplied with prescription lenses where necessary.

Prescription safety glasses are a form of Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE, and in the hierarchy of risk control all items of PPE are considered to be the final line of defence. This is mainly because they protect only the user and do not take into account negation of the risk to others in the vicinity. However, because PPE is the “last resort” after other methods of protection have been considered, it is important that users wear it all the time they are exposed to the risk.

Since prescription safety glasses are issued as items of personal protective equipment, the recipient has a statutory duty not to tamper with, or misuse them.

The recipient also has statutory duties under the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (NI) 1993 to make proper use of the prescription safety glasses at work and to report, as soon as reasonable practicable, the loss of, or any defect in them.

Note that safety glasses will not provide protection against all hazards such as that from chemical splash; grinding; welding; flame cutting and work with lasers. Additional eye protection as determined by risk assessment is required when undertaking these activities.

Colin Richardson  
Safety Officer