

# Prescription Safety Eyewear Program for MGEU Members

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q How much of a discount will I receive?

A Depending on your vision prescription and options ordered, you will pay between 1/4 and 1/3 of regular retail pricing (66-75% discount).

Q How many times can I purchase in a year?

A As many as you like.

Q Does the discount apply to regular eyewear?

A No. The Occupational Vision Care (OVC) program applies to prescription safety eyewear only.

Q Is the discount available to my family?

A No. The OVC program is only available to MGEU members.

Q Can I purchase prescription safety glasses with removable side shields?

A Manitoba Workplace Safety & Health requires that safety eyewear used in Manitoba workplaces meets CSA standards. To meet CSA standards, fixed side shields are mandatory.

*Prescription safety glasses with removable side shields can be purchased outside the OVC program at regular retail rates. These do not meet CSA standards and cannot be used in the workplace. A waiver acknowledging such must be signed at the time of purchase.*

Q Are the frame styles offered appropriate for all workplace situations?

A All frames and lenses offered meet CSA standards, however not all styles may be appropriate for every workplace situation. Your employer determines what is allowed or appropriate for their workplace (i.e. wire-style frames with permanently fixed side shields meet CSA standards but are not appropriate for grinding metal).

Q What type of lenses should I get?

A We recommend that you get the same type of lenses as you have in your regular eyewear – progressives if you normally wear progressives, bifocals if you normally wear bifocals, etc. Lens material is determined by your employer and your specific workplace requirements.

Q Do I need a current eye exam/vision prescription to purchase safety glasses through the OVC program?

A Yes. Most optometrists require a vision prescription that is less than a year old. Many people will see changes in their vision and vision prescription from year to year. There is no point in ordering either regular eyewear or prescription safety eyewear if your vision prescription is outdated or has changed.

Q Does my eye exam have to be done by a participating OVC optometrist?

A No. You can have your eyes examined by any practicing optometrist in Manitoba, and can then bring that vision prescription to a participating OVC location to purchase your prescription safety eyewear.

