



**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**  
**Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division**

March 29, 2013

**TO:** All OSHA  
**FROM:** Marilyn K. Schuster, Deputy Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** Eye and Face Protection when using a Chainsaw

Oregon OSHA rules require the use of eye and face protection when there is a hazard of injury to the eyes or face. Subdivision 2/R and 7/D both say “Where chips, sawdust or flying particles present a hazard”, the employer must provide and require personnel to wear eye and face protection. Anytime a chainsaw is being used, there is a hazard to the operator’s eyes from flying chips, sawdust, or other particles; therefore eye or face protection is required and must be worn.

There are chainsaw operators who don’t use eye or face protection 100% of the time because they say it impairs their vision. This is especially the case in western Oregon’s wet climate. They report difficulty with keeping eye protection free from fogging, rain, sawdust particles and glare. They claim there is not a good eye protection device available that does not impair vision.

However, there are many options available for eye and face protection that comply with ANSI Z87.1 standards when using a chainsaw. The note following 437-007-0315 in Division 7/D specifically allows the use of logger-type mesh screens. An operator may use either eye or face protection as long as the face protection also covers the eyes. In addition, there are many companies that make fog resistant eye protection.

Effective immediately, Oregon OSHA consultative and enforcement staff are to address the use of eye or face protection whenever an employee is operating a chainsaw, regardless of the industry.

The following are Oregon OSHA’s personal protection equipment rules that require the use of eye and face protection:

**2/I OAR 437-002-0134(8) Eye and Face Protection.**

*(a) The employer must ensure that each affected employee uses appropriate eye or face protection when exposed to eye or face hazards from flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors, or potentially injurious light radiation.*

**2/R OAR 437-002-0306(6) Eye or face protection shall be provided and used where chips, sawdust or flying particles present a hazard.**

**3/E 1926.102(a)(1) Employees shall be provided with eye and face protection equipment when machines or operations present potential eye or face injury from physical, chemical, or radiation agents.**

**4/I OAR 437-004-1035(1)(a) Provide and require the use of eye or face protection that protects employees from hazards such as flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic materials, gases and vapors, electrical hazards, or potentially harmful light radiation.**

**7/D 437-007-0315 Eye and Face Protection.** *Where chips, sawdust or flying particles present a hazard, the employer must provide and require personnel to wear eye and face protection meeting the requirement of Division 2/I.*

**NOTE:** *Logger-type mesh screen may be used for chain saw operators.*