



Designation: F3603 – 23

Standard Specification for Eye Protectors for Handball¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F3603; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers eye protectors designed for use by players of handball that minimize or significantly reduce injury to the eye and adnexa due to impact and penetration of balls. Protective eyewear offers protection only to the eyes and does not protect other parts of the head.

1.2 Impact testing is done in a laboratory setting. Eye contact is determined by observation.

1.3 *Units*—The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D1003 Test Method for Haze and Luminous Transmittance of Transparent Plastics

2.2 ANSI Standards:³

ANSI Z80.3 Requirements for Nonprescription Sunglasses and Fashion Eyewear

ANSI Z87.1 Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protectors

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment, Playing Surfaces, and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.57 on Eye Safety for Sports.

Current edition approved July 1, 2023. Published September 2023. DOI: 10.1520/F3603-23.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

2.3 Federal Standard:⁴

National Institute of Standards and Technology Specification
Technical Publication 374 Method for Determining the
Resolving Power of Photographic Lenses

2.4 Canadian Standard:⁵

CSA Z262.6 Specifications for Facially Featured Head
Forms

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *binocular*, *adj*—relating to the field of view which is shared by both eyes simultaneously; also any simultaneous activity of the two eyes.

3.1.2 *central viewing zone*, *n*—that part of the eye of a protector that has its center in line with the wearer's normal line of sight.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—The zone is circular in shape and 40 mm in diameter. The center of the central viewing zone shall be the point of intersection of the line of sight with the lens as mounted on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) head form (see CSA Z262.6).

3.1.3 *cleanable*, *adv*—ability of a protective device to be made readily free of dirt or grime without being damaged during an appropriate cleaning process such as the use of soap and water.

3.1.4 *coverage*, *n*—characteristic of a protective device that obstructs straight line paths that are coincident with the wearer's eyes.

3.1.5 *definition (optical)*, *n*—characteristic of a lens that allows separate distinct points in close proximity to be discerned when looking through the lens.

3.1.6 *eye*, *n*—relating to the eye of a test head form or the eye of a person wearing a protector or that part of an eye protective device through which a wearer's eye would normally look.

3.1.7 *eye of the head form*, *n*—all structures contained within the orbital rim of the CSA head form (see CSA Z262.6).

⁴ Available from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), 100 Bureau Dr., Stop 1070, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1070, <http://www.nist.gov>.

⁵ Available from Canadian Standards Association (CSA), 178 Rexdale Blvd., Toronto, ON M9W 1R3, Canada, <http://www.csagroup.org>.

3.1.8 *haze, n*—fraction of the total transmitted light from a normally incident beam that is not transmitted in a focused condition but scattered by inclusions or surface defects.

3.1.8.1 *Discussion*—Excessive haze will reduce contrast and visibility.

3.1.9 *head form optical parameters, n*—key dimensions for the head forms.

3.1.10 *impact resistance, n*—ability of a device to afford protection from impact as required by this specification.

3.1.11 *lens, n*—when so equipped, the transparent part or parts of a protective device through which the wearer normally sees.

3.1.12 *luminous transmittance, n*—function of the spectral transmittance of the lens weighted by the corresponding ordinates of the photopic luminous efficiency distribution of the CIE (1931) standard colorimetric observer and by the spectral intensity of standard Illuminant C (see ANSI Z80.3).

3.1.13 *normal lines of sight, n*—straight-ahead horizontal lines that intersect the center of the eyes of the appropriate head form.

3.1.14 *penetration resistance, n*—ability of a device to afford protection from moving objects as required by this specification.

3.1.15 *permanent, adj*—marked so as not to become unidentifiable with normal usage.

3.1.16 *plano lens, n*—lens that does not incorporate a corrective prescription.

3.1.16.1 *Discussion*—This lens is not necessarily flat.

3.1.17 *power imbalance, n*—relates to the condition in which the refractive power of the lens or lenses of a protector is different as presented to the two eyes.

3.1.18 *prism, n*—device that bends a beam of light as a result of the lack of parallelism of the two surfaces of a lens through which the beam of light traverses.

3.1.18.1 *Discussion*—The amount of bending is a function of the curvatures, thickness, index of refraction of the material, and the angle of approach of the line of sight to the optical surface. In this specification, prism refers to the amount of bending that is imposed upon the line of sight of a wearer of an eye protector for the specified viewing position. Prism is expressed in diopters. The deviation of the line of sight by 1 cm/m is one prism diopter.

3.1.18.2 *base-down, n*—refers to the type of prism that causes a horizontal beam of light to bend down causing objects to appear higher than their true position.

3.1.18.3 *base-in, n*—relating to the type of prism imbalance that tends to cause parallel rays of light passing through a protector, spaced apart by the inter-pupillary distance, to converge.

3.1.18.4 *base-out, n*—relating to the type of prism imbalance that tends to cause parallel rays of light passing through a protector, spaced apart by the inter-pupillary distance, to diverge.

3.1.18.5 *base-up, n*—refers to the type of prism that causes a horizontal beam of light to bend upward causing objects to appear lower than their true position.

3.1.19 *prism imbalance, n*—

3.1.19.1 *horizontal imbalance, n*—difference in prismatic deviation of incident parallel light beams on the two eyes of a protective device in the horizontal meridian (see 3.1.18.3 and 3.1.18.4).

3.1.19.2 *vertical imbalance, n*—difference in prismatic deviation between parallel light beams incident on the two eyes of a protective device in the vertical meridian.

3.1.20 *protective device (or protector), n*—device that provides protection to the wearer's eye against specific hazards encountered in sports.

3.1.21 *refractive power, n*—focusing effect of a lens expressed in diopters.

3.1.21.1 *astigmatism, n*—condition in a lens that creates two axially separated line foci of each object point, the lines being mutually perpendicular. In other words, the lens has two different refractive powers in meridians that are 90° apart.

3.1.22 *scotoma, n*—blind or partially blind area within the visual field.

3.1.23 *spherical power, n*—average of the maximum meridional astigmatic power and the minimum meridional astigmatic power of a lens.

4. Classification

4.1 Eye protectors are classified into the following types:

4.1.1 *Type I*—A protector with the lens or lenses and frame front piece molded as one unit. Frame temples or other devices, such as straps, to affix the lens/front piece may be separate pieces.

4.1.2 *Type II*—A protector with a single lens or lenses, either plano or prescription, mounted in a frame that was manufactured as a separate unit.

4.1.3 *Type III*—A protector without a lens.

5. General Requirements

5.1 *Materials of Construction:*

5.1.1 The manufacturer's choice of material shall be in accordance with 5.1.2 and 5.1.3.

5.1.2 Materials coming into contact with the wearer's face shall not be of a type known to cause skin irritation.

5.1.3 Materials coming into contact with the wearer's face, except replaceable padding, shall not undergo significant loss of strength or flexibility or other physical change as a result of perspiration, oil, or grease from the wearer's skin and hair.

5.1.3.1 The manufacturer will provide material selection and, by affidavit, support 5.1.1 – 5.1.3.

5.1.4 *Cleanability*—Protective devices shall be capable of being cleaned to the degree that, when conditioned in accordance with the method described in 9.1, they shall remain functional in all ways.

5.2 *Finishes and Construction*—The protector shall be constructed in a manner to prevent the ball or components of the