



CONTACT LENSES

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Area: SCEP

Document Owner: Environment, Health and Safety Manager

Document Contact: Safety and Hygiene Advisor

SCOPE AND PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to detail the appropriate use of contact lenses at the Suncor Energy St. Clair Ethanol facility. This standard applies to all employees, contractors, and visitors.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The **Safety and Hygiene Advisor** is accountable to provide support, as necessary to ensure appropriate eye and face protection is utilized and conformance to this Standard.

Workers are accountable to take every precaution to ensure their contact lenses remain safe and clean.

Workers are accountable to consistently utilize the appropriate eye protection at all times in conjunction with their contact lenses.

Workers and Supervisors are accountable to evaluate their work tasks for potential eye hazards, and to select the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Contractors are accountable to adhere to all Personal Protective Equipment requirements while working at the St. Clair Ethanol Plant.

GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS:

The St. Clair Ethanol Plant permits employees, contractors and visitors to utilize prescription contact lenses in the field, only when they are used in conjunction with existing eye protection requirements.

Contact lenses do not provide any level of eye protection and wearing them does not reduce the risk of possible injury. Contact lenses do not provide adequate protection in any environment, in which the chance of an accidental splash of a chemical can reasonably be anticipated.

Employees, contractors and visitors must don the appropriate safety eyewear for their job, and must continually evaluate any changes to the work environment that may require additional safety precautions (i.e. the use of a chemical face shield).

It is recommended that employees who choose to wear contact lenses identify this fact to their immediate supervisor.

Employees who choose to wear contact lenses should only remove their lenses in a clean environment, and only after having thoroughly washed their hands. It is recommended that wearers remove their contact lenses at the first indication of eye redness or irritation.

It is recommended that workers routinely inspect their contact lenses for damage and/or replace them regularly.

There is no increased risk of an individual utilizing a respirator while using contact lenses.

It is a possibility that some individuals who wear contact lenses experience symptoms of “dry eyes”, which may be exasperated by hot, dry environments. This irritation is a result of the dehydration of the lens itself, and may be worse in air-fed respirators.

For employees who are unable to wear contact lenses or those who experience difficulties with contact lenses when using respirator masks (i.e. dryness) can utilize prescription inserts, which are available through the St. Clair Ethanol Plant EH&S Department.

It is recommended that a contact lens wearer practice wearing a respirator with their lenses in place, to see if any problems occur before the respirator is used on a full-time or emergency basis.

Workers performing chemical offloading or working with chemicals must utilize a chemical face shield in addition to their standard eye protection – regardless of contact lens use. Close-fitting safety glasses with side shields provide limited chemical protection and do not prevent chemicals from bypassing the protection.

In the event of chemical exposure, begin eye irrigation immediately and remove contact lenses as soon as practical. **DO NOT** delay irrigation while waiting for contact lens removal, as the lens may be dislodged as a result of irrigation, or can be removed once irrigation is complete.

During welding activities, contact lenses pose a risk for excessive irritation and ultraviolet radiation exposure. As a result, the use of contact lenses is only permitted with the appropriate eye protection in place (i.e. helmet, face shield, safety glasses or goggles).

Close-fitting goggles are recommended for welding activities for those wearing contact lenses in addition to those who are not.

Prescription safety eyewear is available through the St. Clair Ethanol Plant.

DEFINITIONS

Contact Lenses: small, thin discs made up of transparent material. The outer surfaces are custom-shaped to correct or improve vision, and the inner side is carefully formed to fit the surface of the cornea.

Ultraviolet: wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum that are shorter than those of visible light and longer than x-rays, 10^{-5} cm to 10^{-6} cm wavelengths.

END OF PROCEDURE

REVISIONS			
No.	Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Author	Description
0	07/28/2016	M. Renaud	Created