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## Good to know



### What lens material is best?

#### CR39 (Columbia Resin 39):

- Used for its optical quality, low cost and lightweight characteristics, CR39 is lighter than glass but thicker than more recently developed impact-resistant lens materials
- CR39 does not offer the same impact resistance to industrial hazards as Polycarbonate lenses, only conforming to EN166S (the same as toughened glass). If impact is a risk – this lens is not suitable for you
- CR39 requires a UV coating to be added – especially important if you work outside
- CR39 lenses are ideal for non-industrial workplaces e.g. VDU users (Visual Display Unit) or office workers

#### Polycarbonate:

- Originally developed for the aerospace industry owing to its exceptional impact resistance. Polycarbonate is now the 'go to' material for safety eyewear
- Conforms to EN166F, the same impact strength as industrial safety glasses, protecting against impacts travelling at 45 meters per second (100mph)
- Lenses have  $\leq 10$  times more impact-resistance than plastic or glass lenses and with high optical quality
- It naturally provides 100% UV protection
- Lenses are on average 25% thinner and 20% lighter than CR39, making them more comfortable and aesthetically pleasing

# uvex

For uvex safety is paramount. Ensure your prescription safety glasses will perform should the unthinkable happen.

uvex offers a choice of metal, plastic and contemporary wraparound frame styles in single vision, bi-focal or varifocal for safety or a completely new range of VDU frames. All frames come with scratch resistant coatings, slip-in spectacle case and lens cleaning cloth.

UVEX SAFETY (UK) LTD  
uvex House  
Farnham Trading Estate  
Farnham  
Surrey  
England  
GU9 9NW

Tel.: 01252 731221  
Fax: 01252 733968  
E-Mail: [prescription@uvex.co.uk](mailto:prescription@uvex.co.uk)  
Internet: [uvex-safety.co.uk](http://uvex-safety.co.uk)

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protecting people

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## How much do you know about prescription safety eyewear?

A quick guide to check if your eyewear is up to the job

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protecting people

# Understanding safety prescription eyewear could change a life

With 1 in 4 people needing prescription eyewear, it's important to protect wearers exposed to impact hazards.

However, the lack of knowledge surrounding the different lens materials and their protective performance could put wearers at risk. When it comes to prescription safety eyewear there are some key things to look out for.

**CR39 v Polycarbonate, which lens material is best:**

With an increased number of high street opticians now offering safety prescription spectacles at excellent prices, do you know what you are paying for?

More often than not, impact is the main concern for industrial prescription wearers. It's therefore important that the appropriate lens material is selected.

- **CR39** is commonly used by high street opticians but only conforms to EN166S - increased robustness and similar to toughened glass
- **Polycarbonate** lenses conform to EN166F and are often only offered as an 'upgrade' upon request

The default to CR39 is not common knowledge, with many wearers assuming they are protected like their peers, although often not the case.

It's important to note, that CR39 is ideal for non-industrial workplaces e.g. offices, where impact is not a risk.

# How to check your safety prescription glasses

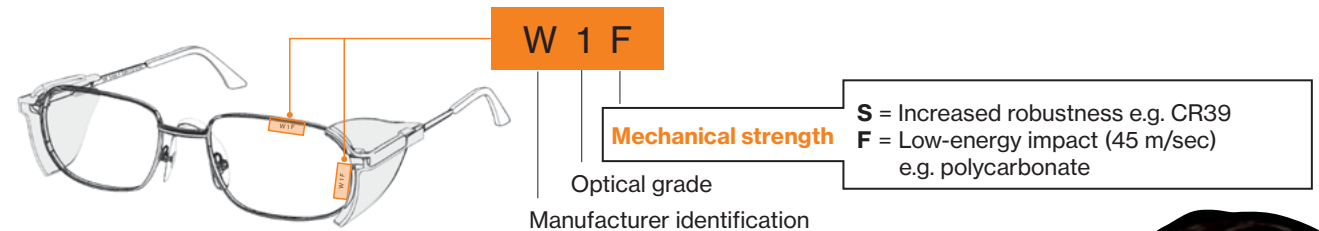
Safety prescription glass lenses will have markings to:

- 1) identify the manufacturer (in uvex's case W)
- 2) state the optical quality e.g. a 1, and
- 3) a letter for the impact strength e.g. S or F

This information will be either at the top of the lens or on the side (see below diagram).

Look for the letters S or F. If you can see an S your glasses are either CR39 or toughened glass if it is F, they are polycarbonate.

For industrial workplaces with a risk of impact, polycarbonate lenses should be selected.



This information will not be visible on VDU/office spectacle lenses or if you have a goggle insert.

## uvex's top tips:

- Before visiting the optician establish the requirements of the prescription wearer and the hazards they are exposed to. Is impact the main risk?
- Ensure the optician is aware of the hazards
- High street safety prescription glasses often start with CR39 and only 'upgrade' to polycarbonate upon request. Ensure you ask the right questions about the lens material to ensure you know which lens material your glasses will be made from
- If you buy from a high-street optician, don't assume the glasses have the same impact protection as general safety eyewear
- Once you have the safety prescription glasses, check using the diagram above, that the spectacles have been manufactured to your requirements and as discussed with the optician.

