

# Safety Alert

**Number: 21-05**

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**Subject: Wearing and Stowage of PPE**

## What Happened / Narrative

This Safety Alert has been raised to highlight a recent incident on one of our members vessels involving safety equipment and its storage.

While engaged in grinding operations a foreign object got into the crew member's eye. This object was either already within the safety visor or flew up beneath the full-face protection and under his own glasses. The IP immediately stopped the job, washed out his eye, and reported to the vessel's Master. During the medical examination by the master, no object was found, and the IP no longer had any vision pain or discomfort.

At the time, the IP was wearing a full-face visor, and his own prescription glasses. He made the natural assumption that his eyes would be fully protected. Unfortunately, this was not the case, the foreign object could have fallen into his eye from within the visor or flew up under his full-face protection.

## Why Did it Happen / Cause

This incident shows the importance of using the correct eye protection and its correct stowage. On this particular vessel, since this incident, the stowage of all eye protection PPE, has been re-located and enhanced by placing it in clear plastic bags to ensure it is clean and free from foreign objects before being used.

In the picture No 1 it can be clearly seen that goggles were being stowed in an unsuitable position next to drilling and cutting machinery within the workshop, where there was a very good chance that particles could land within the protective gear, and therefore could fall into an operator's eyes. In picture No 2 the new safe stowage is shown.

## Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

The lessons learned from this incident are as below:

1. The stowage for eye protection has been changed to a safer position, and within clear plastic bags.
2. The Risk Assessments for use of Power Tools, Hot Work and Grinding have been adjusted to state that "Goggles MUST be worn" as opposed to "Correct PPE should be used."

Please take time to discuss and consider this on your own vessel to see if your own barriers are sufficient to avoid a similar incident in your work area.

## Photographs / Supporting Information



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