

Eyewear PPE in the UK: Types and Safety Standards

Safety Glasses	Safety Goggles	Face Shield / Visor	UV Protection	Sun Glare
				
BS EN 166 Basic Protection	BS EN 166 Codes: 3/4/5	BS EN 166 Impact & Splash Protection	BS EN 170 UV Filters	BS EN 172 Sun glare Filters
Basic protective glasses with side arms, sometimes with side shields. Best for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust and Dirt • Splashback • Light Impact 	Close-fitting or sealed eyewear that fully encloses the eyes. Best for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemicals • Dusty environments • Laboratory work • Splashback • Light Impact 	Full-face protection, often attached to helmets. Best for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grinding/cutting • Forestry work • High-impact • Splash hazards Often used alongside safety glasses or goggles, not as a replacement.	Eyewear designed to filter Ultraviolet Radiation. Best for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor work • UV-emitting industrial processes 	Tinted lenses that reduces glare and maintains safety protection. Best for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor construction • Plant and machinery operation •

At the heart of all eyewear PPE is BS EN 166 – Personal Eye Protection.

This is the baseline standard that all safety eyewear must meet. It covers:

- Optical clarity
- Impact resistance
- Durability
- General construction requirements

Additional markings within EN 166 indicate specific protection levels:

- F / B / A – Low, medium, and high impact resistance
- S – Increased robustness
- Optical Class 1–3 – Suitability for continuous wear

Think of EN 166 as the foundation, with other standards adding specialised protection.