

POLICY NUMBER: POL-06

**Chapter:
CLAIMS**

**Subject:
PRESCRIPTION EYEWEAR**

**Effective Date:
January 20, 1994**

**Last Update:
October 27, 2022**

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The purpose of the policy is to explain how the Workers Compensation Board determines a worker's entitlement to prescription eyewear and to outline the reimbursement rates, if accepted.

REFERENCE:

Workers Compensation Act R. S. P. E. I. 1988, Cap. W-7.1, Section 18
Workers Compensation Board Policy, POL-86, Temporary Wage Loss Benefits

DEFINITION:

In this policy:

"Prescription eyewear" means a device, prescribed by a health care provider, used to correct or modify an individual's vision.

POLICY:

Prescription Eyewear Resulting From an Injury

1. The Workers Compensation Board (WCB) will pay for new prescription eyewear for a
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worker who requires prescription eyewear as a result of a workplace injury or due to a change to the worker's existing prescription as a result of a workplace injury.

2. Where a worker requires new prescription eyewear as a result of a compensable eye injury, the WCB will pay for replacement every two years or when a change to the prescription is required, whichever occurs earlier.

Damaged Prescription Eyewear

3. The WCB will pay to repair or replace prescription eyewear worn at the time of an accident and damaged as a result of a specific external force, arising out of and in the course of employment. This includes prescription safety glasses if they were originally paid for by the worker.
4. The WCB will not pay to repair or replace prescription eyewear resulting from damage or loss because the eyewear fell off the worker's face (for example, ill-fitting) or as a result of normal wear and tear.
5. The WCB will consider repairs first. However, if repairs are not feasible, the WCB will replace the prescription eyewear on a one time basis.

Reimbursement Rates for New or Replacement Eyewear

Reimbursement rates for the new or replacement prescription eyewear are subject to the following limits:

Lenses:	Actual cost
Contact lenses:	Actual cost
Frames	\$250

6. In addition to the limits listed above, the cost of enhancements (for example, tinting) will also be covered if such enhancements were present at the time of the accident.

Eye Examinations

7. The WCB will pay for eye examinations only when required as a result of a compensable workplace injury.

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HISTORY:

October 27, 2022 – amended to provide for replacement of prescription eyewear every two years.

December 10, 2020 - Non-substantive changes to reflect revisions to policy, POL-86, Temporary Wage Loss Benefits.

March 26, 2015 - Amended to clarify entitlement for prescription eyewear and increase the reimbursement rates. Also, the name of the policy was changed from “Visual Aids” to “Prescription Eyewear”.

September 27, 2007 - The policy was updated as a result of the 60 month policy review process.

December 13, 2001 - Replaces Policy and Practice Visual Aids dated January 20, 1994.

Board of Directors Approval Date: January 20, 1994