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An American National Standard

Standard Safety Specification for Eye and Face Protective Equipment for Hockey Players[1]

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INTRODUCTION

Ice hockey is a contact sport with intrinsic hazards. Protective equipment can not eliminate all injuries, but will substantially reduce their severity and frequency. Participation in this sport by a player implies acceptance of some injury risk. The goal of protective equipment is to minimize the risk of injury.

After careful consideration of the mechanisms and forces involved in hockey injuries, this specification for eye and facial protective equipment has been prepared. A significant reduction of oculo-facial injuries by the use of facial protective equipment is an expected result.

Performance requirements are presented that are intended to minimize injury with minimal impairment of the form and appeal of the sport. The committee considers this specification as preliminary, subject to revision as indicated by subsequent injury statistics. With these goals in mind, the impact and penetration requirements were determined. It is realized that ocular and facial injuries will still be possible; however, it was felt that more stringent requirements may interfere with player performance.

In addition to the use of facial protective equipment conforming to this specification, the following recommendations are made: (*1*) A minimal stick blade width of 70 mm (2.8 in.) (per accepted rule book limits); (*2*) Modification to rear blade of the ice skate to prevent penetration through wire mesh masks; (*3*) Stricter rules against high sticking; and (*4*) Stricter rules and enforcement against fighting. All of the requirements of this specification are subject to modification if future statistics demonstrate significant injuries under game conditions; (*5*) If full face wire protectors are used for goaltenders, a throat protector must be affixed.

1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety specification covers eye and face protective equipment for hockey players.

1.2 This specification is intended to reduce the demonstrated hazards associated with the sport of ice hockey involving the face including eyes.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.4 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test method portion, Section 7 of this specification: *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *Federal Standards:*[2]

National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 374

Federal Test Methods Standards, No. 46, Method 3022

2.2 *American National Standards:*[3]

ANSI Z80.1, 1979, Requirements for First-Quality Prescription Opthalmic Lenses

ANSI Z80.3, 1977, Requirements for Nonprescription Sunglasses and Fashion Eyewear

ANSI Z87.1, 1979, Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protectors

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *astigmatism, n*—a condition in a lens that creates two axially separated line foci of each object point. The lines being

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[2] Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

[3] Available from American National Standards Institute, 11 W. 42nd St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

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