

3M Introduces Several New Advances in Protective Eyewear Products

(St. Paul, Minnesota -- October 26, 2009)—The 3M Company announces the launch of three new eye protection products.

First, the 3M™ Virtua™ Sport and 3M™ Nitrous™ Corded earplug Control System (CCS) Protective Eyewear offer a revolutionary new solution that brings eye protection and hearing protection products together. The CCS eyewear has a built-in temple groove feature that allows the wearer to attach a corded earplug to the temple of the eyewear, keeping both personal protective products together and accessible for quick use.

When earplugs and eyewear are not in use, the cord from the earplugs can dual as a lanyard – a cord worn around the neck for carrying protective eyewear. The temple design controls and holds the cord of the earplug to keep it securely in place and untangled while in use. The 3M Corded earplug Control System can be used with a variety of 3M and other brands of vinyl corded earplugs and is easy to assemble. Most earplugs easily detach from the eyewear with a basic tug, limiting the danger to workers if safety products become stuck in machines or equipment.

Deb Walker, 3M Eyewear Portfolio Manager, notes, “This product can help safety managers reduce costs, and improve productivity and compliance by making it easier for workers to keep track of their equipment. CCS eyewear can help reduce costs for replacement hearing protection products that are dropped and become dirty or unusable. CCS can also help improve productivity by limiting the amount of time workers spend looking for lost safety products.”

Virtua Sport CCS eyewear is available in clear and gray frames, with both anti-fog and hard coat lenses. The Nitrous CCS eyewear is available in a black frame with clear and gray anti-fog and indoor/outdoor mirror lenses. These CCS products offer comfortable contemporary styling and polycarbonate lenses that absorb 99.9% UV, and they meet the requirements of ANSI Z87.1-2003.

Second, the 3M™ BX™ Dual Reader Protective Eyewear has magnification diopters that are molded into both the upper and lower lens, providing magnifying power when users are looking up or down. “The BX Dual Reader Protective Eyewear can be especially helpful to those with ‘presbyopia’, a vision condition involving the loss of the eye’s ability to focus on close objects,” says Walker. Presbyopia is a condition that occurs gradually over a number of years as part of normal aging. “This eyewear allows magnification power on both the upper AND lower lens, helping to make reading and other small detailed work easier,” adds Walker.

BX Dual Readers meet the requirements of ANSI Z87.1-2003, and are available in silver/black dual tone frames with anti-fog lenses, with diopters of +1.5, +2.0, and +2.5.

Third, the 3M™ Maxim™ GT Protective Eyewear brings sophistication, style and comfort in a lightweight frame. The unique 3-position lens adjustment and elastomeric browguard help provide the best possible fit for day-long comfort.

Maxim GT eyewear is available in gray/black dual tone frames with clear and gray anti-fog and indoor/outdoor mirror lenses, and the eyewear meets the requirements of ANSI Z87.1-2003.

In addition to these new eyewear products, 3M offers a wide selection of other protective eyewear and hearing protection products, as well as additional personal protective equipment. Contact your 3M safety products distributor or visit www.3M.com/OccSafety for additional information.

About 3M

A recognized leader in research and development, 3M produces thousands of innovative products for dozens of diverse markets. The core strength of 3M is applying its more than 40 distinct technology platforms – often in combination – to a wide array of customer needs. With \$25 billion in sales, 3M employs 75,000 people worldwide and has operations in more than 60 countries.

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