

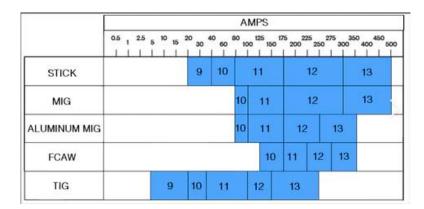
MAFES DAWG TRACKS

All the news media hype about the solar eclipse happening Monday, April 8th got me thinking about shaded lenses. There are glasses made specifically for this eclipse event, and legit ones will have an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 12312-2 code marked on the inside. But if you use a welding hood it should have a minimum lens' darkness of 13 according to the recommendations of The American Astronomical Society. Viewing the eclipse with anything lighter, or normal sunglasses, could result in a permanent blind spot in the center of your vision.

Similarly, there is often confusion about what is appropriate and safe eye protection for hot work job task regarding shade numbers of lens. The higher the number the more protection there is from UV exposure. During cutting operations, the infrared radiation is more of a concern. Infrared (IR) radiation cannot be seen but is felt as heat. And there is no way to sense if you are being overexposed to ultraviolet (UV) radiation — so just do not take any chances and always wear eye and face protection with the proper protective shading.

In general, there are 3 shade categories. The general rule of thumb is to choose a filter too dark to see and then move to the next lighter setting without dropping to below the minimum recommended rating.

- Oxy Welding & Plasma Cutting require a minimum of shade 3-5.
- Stick Welding requires a shade range between 9-13.
- Mig & Tig Welding requires a shade range of 9-13.



For more info contact: **Leslie Woolington**MAFES/MSU-ES Risk Mgmt.

<u>LHW4@msstate.edu</u>

662-325-3204

Sources: