

NEW MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE'S

SAFETY TASK FORCE

September 15, 2026 | 8:30 AM

Cherry Optical Manufacturing

Notes

ATTENDEES: Ann Franz, NEWMA; Erin DeGuelle, Cherry Optical; Andrea Van Dyn Hoven, Morton Safety; Kirby Allen, Morton Safety; Nick Heyrman, Winona Foods; Erica Malzahn, Baycare clinic; Olivia Derocher, Arcpoint Labs/Any Lab Test Now; Stanley Rittner, BCI Burke; Josh Iserloth, N.E.W. Plastics Corp.; Stephanie Lee, USI Insurance Services; Steve Andrastek, Axiom, Inc; Buckley Kain, Cruisers Yachts; Peter Nickel-Keynecta; Stephanie Reidy, Cherry Optical Lab; Erica Malzahn, BayCare Clinic; Nicole Fritz, Marion Body Works; Corey Evenson, Eck Industries; Peter Nickel, Keynecta; Sarah Putbress, NEWMA

Topic 1: Safety glasses presented by Cherry Optical

- Proper eye protection can reduce workplace eye injuries by as much as 90%.
- Safety frames are designed for different hazards and work environments; frame markings identify basic- and high-impact protection.
- Common lens materials include plastic, high-index plastic, polycarbonate and Trivex.
 - Polycarbonate and Trivex are lightweight, impact-resistant materials used for high-impact safety applications.
- Cherry Optical conducts weekly drop-ball testing by dropping a steel ball onto a lens to confirm that it does not crack or break.

Topic 2: Respirator FIT/Pulmonary Function/and Audiometric Testing presented by ARC Lab

- ARCpoint Labs and Any Lab Test Now operate as separate brands: ARCpoint provides employer and compliance services, while Any Lab Test Now provides consumer lab testing.
- A compliant safety program requires more than testing each employee; employers must retain training, evaluation, results and follow-up documentation.
 - Respiratory protection programs should be written, kept current and tailored to each employee's role, exposure and tolerance.
 - Fit testing is not a one-time activity because jobs, exposures and employee circumstances can change.
 - Employers may outsource parts of testing, but they retain responsibility for compliance.
 - Respiratory protection services discussed included medical evaluations, pulmonary function testing and respirator fit testing.
- Audiometric testing was discussed for employees exposed to 85 decibels or more over an eight-hour period.
 - Portable audiometric testing can be conducted quickly in a variety of work environments.
 - All testing and related records should be documented and retained.

Topic 3: Open Forum

- The heat safety subcommittee will meet October 20 at 8:30 a.m. Members interested in participating should contact Ann Franz.
- Potential Safety Task Force topics for 2027:
 - Forklift safety

- OSHA National Emphasis Programs
- CPR and first-aid training for staff
- Fall prevention
- Glove and hand safety
- Workers' compensation claims from both insurance and medical perspectives

Topic 4: Plant tour

Topic 5: Next steps & meeting on November 17 at 8:30 a.m.

- **October 21:** Full-day ergonomics event at NWTC, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The event is free, but registration is required; Ann will distribute the event flyer.
- **November 17 at 8:30 a.m.:** Next Safety Task Force meeting; location to be determined.
- **December 15:** NEWMA Quarterly Membership Meeting 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at FVTC's DJ Bordini Center building