

## STUDY OF THE PRACTICE OF EYE PROTECTION AT WORK AMONG AHOGBOHOU WELDERS (COTONOU, BENIN REPUBLIC)

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### ABSTRACT

This research aims to study the protection of eye by welders during their professional practice. It is a cross-sectional descriptive study that took place in October 2018 in the district of Ahogbohou in Cotonou. An exhaustive sampling enabled 44 welders to be surveyed, having given free and informed consent, using a questionnaire and an observation grid. The informed consent of the respondents was obtained verbally. Data processing and analysis was done using Epi Data software, version 2.2.3.187. All surveyed welders knew that the eyes are at risk during their work. The main factors quoted by welders were: flame (100%); dust (65.9%) and metal breakage (36.3%). The well-known protective equipment was mainly: smoked glass 100%; mask 93.1%; visor 61.3%; welding helmet 25%. Wearing smoked glasses was the predominant practice (69.2%). The surveyed welders (92.3%) did not wear eye protection equipment during grinding and cutting metals. Welders' eye protection recommendations were weakly applied by welders in Ahogbohou district, both during welding and grinding. Then, it urges to organize Information Education and Communication sessions for Behavior Change among these welders in order to guarantee their safety at work.

**Keywords:** Eye protection, welders, safety, work.