

AO—Pioneer In Safety Products

AO played a pioneer role in the field of industrial safety by developing what is generally acknowledged as the first safety goggle.

It was just a little more than fifty years ago that Walter King, a Chicago optician, came to AO with the germ of an idea. Distressed by the number of artificial eyes he was called upon to make for industrial workers, he had in mind some sort of a guard or protective device for eye protection.

The result of his meeting with AO specialists was a rather clumsy pair of safety goggles with plate glass lenses. But the first production order — six dozen pair to the American Steel Foundries of Chicago — was credited, with documentary evidence, with saving twenty eyes in the first month of use!

And so an entirely new field was opened. And it was only natural that this interest in safety should extend from the moment of the accident to the moments before the accident.

Today, only fifty years after young King traveled to Southbridge, the Safety Division is turning out a complete line of products to protect industrial workers throughout the world from painful burns, toxic gases, high temperatures, loud noises and other job hazards of modern industry.

There are four product sections: eye protection, safety clothing, respiratory protection, and specialty items. Products range from safety goggles to welding helmets to sound protectors.

The reputation of the Safety Division is such that when the last series of atomic bomb tests were being held at far-off Einwetok, the Navy turned to AO for lenses for observers' goggles which would allow less than 5% of the visible light from the blasts to be seen. Similar lenses were used for experimental purposes during Operation Deep Freeze as well as by one of the most noted explorers, Sir Hubert Wilkins, during expeditions to the Arctic.

Today, AO, pioneer and leader in the industrial safety field, stands ready to continue that role in the new fields and industries of the world of tomorrow.



Putnam, Conn.—The Home of Safety Products

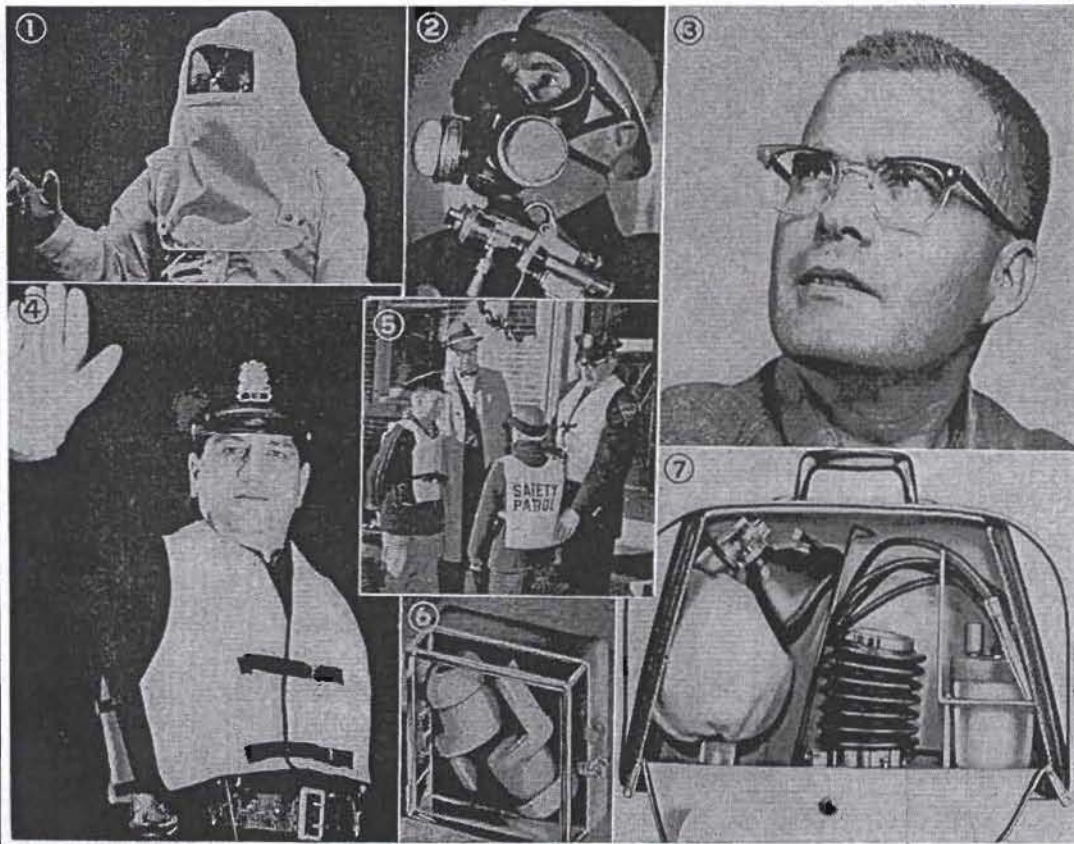
Every year, thousands of industrial workers throughout the world have been protected from job hazards through the use of industrial safety products produced in this three-story brick building in Putnam, Conn., which houses the manufacturing facilities of the Safety Products Division.

Welders in Detroit's giant automobile factories are frequently clothed from head to foot in Putnam products, from the helmets on their heads to the spats on their feet. Asbestos or leather gloves cover their hands, and aprons, jackets and pants of similar materials protect the rest of their body.

Products include safety clothing made of textiles, leather or asbestos, goggles fitted with AO lenses of all types, respirators for protection against chemicals, gases and toxic dust, and safety accessories including welding helmets, face shields, sweat bands and other such devices.

These and other items are used in industry, in farming, in research, in the armed services — wherever any type of hazard is apt to be encountered.

New Look In Safety Products



Here are some of the latest additions to the Safety Products line:

1. Liquid oxygen and nitrogen suit

This new suit provides maximum body protection against liquid oxygen and nitrogen splashes and is currently being used by Army, Navy, Air Force and industrial ground service crews.

2. Paint Spray Respirator

Approved by the U. S. Bureau of Mines, AO's new respirator protects against sprays and vapors of enamels, lacquers and lead-based paints.

3. DuraSafe Safety Glasses

This new AO line, featuring outstanding safety advances, gives workers the utmost in safety, durability and appearance.

4. Blaze Orange Vests

AO policeman Alex Soter wears the new blaze orange vest which has proved to be more readily seen both day and night than usual white clothing.

5. Safety Patrol Vests

Stephen Champeau and C. H. Jacobson, safety sales manager, and Safety Officer Jacob Gouin watch Joseph Lazure model one of the 48 new blaze orange nylon safety jackets presented to Southbridge school safety patrols.

6. Hearguards

These plastic inserts for the ears protect against harmful noise yet permit the wearer to hear normal conversation clearly.

7. Ambu Rescue Kit

This portable rescue breathing kit requires no electricity, uses normal atmospheric air, and can be operated by one person.