



For Immediate Release

Sperian Eye & Face Protection Partners with Prevent Blindness America for Research Initiative

Smithfield, RI – *March 4, 2009* – **Sperian Eye & Face Protection** announced today that it has partnered with **Prevent Blindness America** for a research initiative that will study the importance of safety programs in the workplace. Two hundred safety directors in the United States and Canada will be interviewed during the process to gather information about the types of safety programs that have been successful and the role that co-workers play in the compliance of their peers.

“Sperian Protection is proud to make our resources, particularly our well known Uvex® brand, available to Prevent Blindness America so that together, we can better understand the influence that co-workers have on the rate of compliance within their peer group in the workplace,” said Peggy Costabile, Director of Strategic Development at Sperian Eye & Face Protection. “We hope that this research will help us to validate the importance of safety programs in the workplace so that we can take the next steps toward reducing the number of eye injuries among workers.”

Part of Prevent Blindness America's 100-year-old mission of preventing blindness and saving sight is to educate the public on the importance of eye safety, especially in the workplace. In 1948, Prevent Blindness America began its effort to protect the vision of workers through its Wise Owl Eye Safety Recognition Program. The program continues today and provides safety education materials to companies to help their employees avoid eye accidents and offers recognition to companies and individuals who have saved vision through dedication to proper eye protection in the workplace. The non-profit group has also declared March as Workplace Vision Wellness Month in an effort to raise awareness on the impact that eye safety and vision health has on employers and employees.

“In 2007, there were more than 33,000 occupational eye injuries that required time off from work. Fortunately, 90 percent of all eye injuries can be prevented by wearing the proper protective eyewear,” said Hugh R. Parry, President and CEO of Prevent Blindness America. “Thanks to the generous support of our friends at Sperian, we hope to gather the information needed to enrich and expand our workplace safety programs as we embark on our next century of saving sight.”

About Uvex by Sperian

Sperian Protection's Uvex by Sperian brand is the leading U.S. brand of premium quality, state-of-the-art, feature-rich safety spectacles, goggles and face shields that offer comfort and innovation without compromise. The world's top-selling protective eyewear brand, Uvex has been an acknowledged leader in safety eyewear innovation for more than 50 years and is the pioneer of many groundbreaking innovations such as Dura-streme™ Dual Coating Technology offering combined Anti-fog / Anti-Scratch lenses with 3x longer life, a cost-effective silicone goggle body and MMT — Multi-Material Technology®. Sperian Protection offers Uvex branded safety eyewear and face protection products exclusively in the Americas. For more information, please visit www.uvex.us.

About Sperian Protection

With nearly 6,000 employees worldwide, Sperian Protection serves the global personal protective equipment (PPE) industry, providing hearing, eye, respiratory, fall, body and hand protection. As a world leader in multiple PPE categories, Sperian is committed to offering innovative products adapted to high-risk environments so that workers in the manufacturing and services industries can work with confidence. For more information, please visit www.sperianprotection.com. Sperian Protection is listed on Euronext's Eurolist and on the SBF120. It is eligible for the SRD deferred settlement system.

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