

DuPage County Environmental, Safety, Health & Property Loss Control Program Eye Wash Stations & Emergency Showers

Purpose: To establish requirements for emergency eye wash stations and showers. Proper eye wash facilities are imperative for any environment that exposes staff to corrosive materials. This standard follows IDOL/OSHA 1910.155 regulations.

Per the Bureau of Labor Statistics over 90 % of eye injuries are preventable, however over 1 million Americans have already lost some degree of sight to an eye injury.

Eye wash stations and showers are not substitutes for PPE like safety eye wear, face shields, and protective clothing.

Use of Emergency Eye Wash and Shower stations are not intended to eliminate the need for professional medical examination of the affected area. While an employee is using the emergency stations others should call 911 for an ambulance to transport injured employee for a medical examination / treatment.

Personnel Eye Wash Bottles: These hand held plastic bottles do not replace the need for an emergency eye wash station per ANSI Z358.1.

Policy: Whenever use of a hazardous chemical cannot be eliminated by use of a safe replacement chemical we will provide and require proper Personnel Protective Equipment to be worn when an employee is exposed to a hazardous chemical.

In addition to the proper PPE provided we will provide emergency eye wash stations and in some cases based on exposure emergency showers per the American National Standards Institute standard (ANSI Z358.1).

All Emergency Eye Wash and Shower stations must be inspected per this Inspection section.

Definitions:

Tepid: means temperature between 80° F to 95° F.

Temp Control Valve: TMV's designed for emergency fixtures should be used if connected to a plumbed supply. These valves are built to include a cold water bypass, which allows cold water to pass through the valve in the event of hot water interruption, but will shut the valve down completely upon a cold water failure.

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Eye Wash Stations & Emergency Showers:

1. Must be accessible with no obstructions in the path of travel to the station
2. Installed within 10 seconds of walking time from the location of the hazard
3. Location must be marked with signage and sufficient lighting provided
4. Be able to provide tepid water or flush fluid for an uninterrupted flow of at least 15 minutes, at a flow rate of 0.4 gallons per minute.
5. Eye Wash outlets must be protected from airborne contaminants and such covers must be able to be released automatically upon actuation of the eye wash station.
6. Eye Wash & Shower combination will be provided chemical laboratory's, vehicle maintenance shops, paint recycling and power plant facilities and other operations where one is subjected to a hazardous chemical release which is too large to wash off at an eyewash station or sink.
7. Showers must deliver a minimum of 20 gallons per minutes of flushing fluid with a column 20 inches wide at 60 inches above the surface floor.
8. Eye Wash and Emergency Shower activation methods must be simple to operate and go from on to off in 1 second or less.
9. After initial actuation the actuation valve must be designed so the flushing fluid remains on without the use of the operator's hands.
10. Be provided with drainage

Inspections Required:

All inspections require these three elements:

- Confirming no obstructions are in the path to the station.
 - Location is clearly marked , lighted and the station is clean with eye wash nozzles covered.
 - Written documentation must be maintained, easiest is a tag on the equipment with the inspector's initials and date of inspection.
1. Plumbed eye wash & shower stations must be inspected and operated weekly.
 2. Non-plumbed stations must be inspected monthly to assure tamper seal has not been broken.
 3. Non-plumbed stations fluid should be replaced per expiration date on container and replacement date noted by manufacturer.

Mind the shelf life. Avoid using expired flushing fluid. Like any standing water, eyewash fluid can grow bacteria that may be harmful to eyes. Be sure that someone is responsible for checking stations' expiration dates and refilling/replacing them according to the manufacturer's guidelines. According to ANSI Z358.1-2009, weekly flushing is required for plumbed stations.