

EMERGENCY EYEWASH FACT SHEET

Eyewash stations are necessary protections for all laboratories utilizing chemicals hazardous to human eyes. An eyewash is considered a first aid measure rather than a preventative one. Proper exposure control methods, including eye protection is always required to minimize eye exposure to hazardous chemicals. To provide adequate protection, emergency eyewash stations need proper use and maintenance. PIs/supervisors need to train all students/employees on the location and proper use of eyewash stations. Eyewash installations must meet the ANSI Z358.1 guidelines for plumbed and self-contained eyewash stations

ANSI – Approved Eyewash stations

ANSI-Approved eyewash station, in general, is a plumbed or self-contained eyewash that:

- a. Delivers low-pressure water at 0.4 gallons/min for at **least 15 minutes**.
- b. Provides flushing water to both eyes simultaneously.
- c. Is within **10-second** reach (walking) with a path of travel, that is **not obstructed** and does not require the opening of doors or passing through obstacles.
- d. Uses tepid (lukewarm) water.
- e. Has a valve actuator, which is easy to locate/use and **remains activated** until intentionally closed. User shall be able to **use both hands** to hold the eyelids open in flushing stream
- f. Where severely hazardous chemicals, (e.g. acutely toxic or highly corrosive) are used, an eyewash station may need to be installed immediately adjacent to the hazard location.
- g. Shall be identified with a highly visible sign. The area around the facility should be well lighted and highly visible.



Personal eyewashes, (e.g. eyewash bottles) and drench hoses only provide support for emergency eyewash stations and emergency safety showers and shall not replace them.

Lab responsibilities are to:

- a. Instruct all people working in the lab, on the location, proper use and care of the eyewash(s).
- b. Keep eyewash stations clean, visible, and free from any obstruction.
- c. Activate eyewash stations **weekly** (contain water for eyewash stations that are not connected to the building drain system).
- d. Maintain a **weekly test logbook**, which is readily available or posted close to the eyewash station.
- e. Report any damage or malfunction of the eyewash to Facility Operations.
- f. Assign a responsible person or group to test eyewash stations installed in the public locations, such as hallways.
- g. Follow the manufacturer instructions for proper maintenance of self-contained eyewash stations (e.g. eyewash bottles). **Do not store eyewash liquids beyond their expiration date.**

*** For more information please contact Environmental Health and Safety at 513-1282 or email:**

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