



Emergency Showers and Eye Wash Station Standard

1.0 PURPOSE

This standard supports the Hazard Control Policy and specifies the requirements for emergency showers and eye wash stations.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 Corrosive

Corrosives have the ability to react strongly with metals. Contact with these materials usually results in destructive and irreversible damage to eyes, skin, throat, etc.

2.2 Emergency Showers

Emergency showers are devices specifically designed and intended to deliver flushing fluid in sufficient volume to cause that fluid to cascade over the entire body. Water must be delivered at a velocity that is not injurious to workers for 15 minutes. The shower must deliver at least 75.7L/min (20gal/min) for plumbed or self-contained units of lukewarm/tepid water. The on/off control must be easy to reach and start the water flowing within 1 second or less of being activated.

2.3 Eyewash and Eye/Face Wash Stations

Eyewash stations should be designed to deliver fluid to both eyes simultaneously at a volume of not less than 1.5 litres/minute (0.4 gallons/minute) for 15 minutes. However, the volume should not be at a velocity which may injure the eyes. The unit should be between 83.8 and 114.3 cm (33 to 45 inches) from the floor, and a minimum of 15.3 cm (6 inches) from the wall or nearest obstruction. Plumbed eyewash/face wash equipment used for flushing should be of lukewarm/tepid temperature.

2.4 Flushing Fluid

Flushing fluid is any of potable (drinking) water, preserved water, preserved buffered saline solution or other medically acceptable solutions.

2.5 Personal Eye Wash Station

Designed to deliver flushing fluid immediately, personal eye wash stations can be used while transporting the victim to the permanent eyewash station or medical facility. These stations do not replace the requirement to have a 15 minute-supply eyewash station. The expiry date of the fluid should be printed permanently on the unit.

3.0 METHOD/PRACTICE

3.1 Selection

- Emergency Showers shall meet the requirements of the needs specified by the hazard identification and risk assessment.
- Eyewash and Eye/Face Wash stations shall meet the requirements of the hazard identification and risk assessment.
- Emergency Showers, Eyewash and Eye/Face Wash stations shall meet the requirements of ANSI Z358.1 Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment Standard.



3.2 Provisioning

- Emergency Showers and Eye wash stations (both permanent and personal) shall be supplied through SaskPower Central Stores or through the Division's purchasing process.

3.3 Use

- An eyewash station (both permanent and personal) is required where workers handle on a regular basis, substances that are corrosive or otherwise harmful to eyes or person on a regular basis in a manner of use that may result in harmful exposure to the employee to the eye.
- The Emergency Shower and/or Eyewash and Eye/Face Wash Stations must be located as close to the hazard as possible and be readily accessible. It must be on an unobstructed path between the workstation and the hazard. (Workers should not have to pass through doorways or weave through machinery or other obstacles to reach them.)
- Emergency Shower and/or Eyewash and Eye/Face Wash Stations should be located in an area where further contamination will not occur.
- Drainage systems (i.e. direct waste connection or sump) are subject to environmental regulations if the water contains hazardous materials. As a result, Divisions operating shower/eye wash stations are responsible for ensuring that disposed water meets discharge requirements (i.e. analytical testing prior to discharge).
- Efforts must be made to ensure that there is adequate drainage or containment in place for the excess water to be collected during shower or eye wash (plumbed).
- Emergency Shower and/or Eyewash and Eye/Face Wash Stations must not come into contact with any electrical or battery equipment that may be a hazard when wet.
- Personal Eye Wash Stations must be protected from freezing when installing emergency equipment outdoors or stored in vehicles.
- Flushing fluid will be changed as per manufactures recommendation unless otherwise determined to be of an acceptable quality. Documentation must be provided if change in schedules differs from manufactures recommendation. Plumbed eyewash stations must be activated and flushed monthly at the minimum. Divisions must incorporate administrative controls and maintain records for each of the above.
- Any occurrences when an emergency shower and/or safety eye wash are used for an incident shall be documented as an incident in the Safety Software.

4.0 Training

Each division shall identify and be provided hazard and risk awareness. Workers require general instruction on the proper use and location of eyewash stations. Written instruction should be made available and posted beside the eyewash station. Part of the instructional process should include a "hands on" drill on use of the equipment.

5.0 REFERENCES

- Saskatchewan
 - The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996
 - OHS Guidelines for Emergency Showers and Eyewashes in the Workplace
- SaskPower (Located on SafetyNet)
 - Safety and Environment Rulebook
 - Hazard Control Policy
 - Job Hazard Assessment Policy
- Environment
 - Domestic Waste Water Standard
- Third Party
 - American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard z358.1 – 2009