



The Ohio State University Medical Center

EMERGENCY EYEWASH GUIDELINES

The Ohio State University Medical Center follows the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard Z358.1 for emergency eyewash equipment. The following are the guidelines for where to install emergency eyewash stations, what kind of eye wash equipment is required, and how they are to operate. Information on required testing and training is also listed below.

Location of eye wash stations: Emergency eyewash stations must be installed within 10 seconds walking time from the location of a hazard. The equipment must be installed on the same level as the hazard, and the path of travel from the hazard to the eyewash should be unobstructed. Eye wash stations are to be installed 33"-45" from the floor and 6" from the wall or nearest obstruction. The eyewash must be installed in a well-lit area.

Eye wash equipment: Emergency eyewash stations may be plumbed (unit is permanently connected to a source of potable water) or gravity-fed (unit contains its own flushing fluid and must be refilled or replaced after use). Eyewash stations should have a single handle to operate. Eyewash bottles may be located at workspaces that involve hazardous chemicals. The purpose of eyewash bottles is only to provide an eye flushing mechanism to use until the permanently installed eyewash has been reached; eyewash bottles may not be used as a substitute for plumbed or gravity-fed eyewash stations

Eye wash operation: Valves should activate in one second or less. The eyewash station must have a stay-open valve (leaving hands free). The eyewash should flow at the rate of 0.4 gallons per minute for 15 minutes for plumbed units at a rate of 30 PSI. Gravity-feed units should flow at a rate of 0.4 gallons per minute for 15 minutes.

Eye wash signage: A sign must be installed to identify the location of the eyewash.

Testing: The eyewash station will be checked weekly. The checks must be recorded in a log. The eyewash station must be operated for 3 minutes during testing. The water coming from the station should be tepid in temperature and clear in color. The pressure of the flow should be steady and without spurts.

Maintenance: All eye wash equipment shall be inspected annually. ANSI Z358.1 provides the requirements for proper function. Gravity-feed units shall be maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions. Facilities Services should be contacted for annual maintenance and repair issues.

Training: All employees who might be exposed to a chemical splash shall be trained in the use of the eye wash equipment located in their work area.