



SafetyAlert

We're Serious About Safety

Emergency Eye Wash and Shower Equipment

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations regarding emergency equipment is nonspecific and does not define what constitutes "suitable facilities" for drenching the eyes or body. OSHA does refer to emergency eyewash and shower equipment in 29 CFR 1910.151, which requires that "where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use."

In order to provide guidance to employers, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has established ANSI Z358.1 (2014), to serve as a guideline for the proper design, certification, performance, installation, use and maintenance of emergency eyewash and shower equipment. Employers must remember that job tasks should be evaluated for workplace hazards and emergency equipment is not a substitute for engineering or administrative controls such as personal protective equipment.



Key Points to ANSI Z358.1 - 2014

FIRST AID DEVICE - Emergency equipment is designed to deliver water to rinse contaminants from a user's eyes, face or body. Before purchasing or installing an emergency station make sure that it complies with the ANSI -358.1- 2014 standard.

LOCATION OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT - Install emergency equipment within 10 seconds (approximately 55 feet) of hazard, on the same level as hazard and with unobstructed travel path.

IDENTIFICATION - A highly visible sign or signs should be used to identify the location of the emergency equipment. Area around emergency equipment should be well-lit.

WATER TEMPERATURE - Water temperature delivered by emergency equipment should be "tepid", which is defined as 60°F (16°C) and 100°F (38°C). Annual inspections should include testing to insure compliance with this standard.

WATER FLOW - Annual inspections should include testing of water flow and pattern to insure compliance with this standard. Manufacturers have test specific kits to perform these critical inspections.

INSPECTION - A documented weekly inspection and activation must be conducted to insure proper function and flushing of emergency equipment.

DISPOSAL OF WATER - The standard does not include any specific provisions regarding the disposal of waste water; however care must be taken that waste water does not create a new hazard, i.e. slip and fall.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING - Employees must be trained on the location and proper use of emergency equipment.

For additional information visit the OSHA website at www.osha.gov or The American National Standards Institute website at www.ansi.org.



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