1 Purpose

The purpose of these requirements is to ensure eyewash and shower stations are available to help protect workers after an eye or skin exposure to injurious corrosive chemicals. They cover selecting, installing, inspecting, and maintaining emergency eyewash and shower stations. They apply to workers, supervisors, building managers, and ESH coordinators.

2 Requirements

Note Emergency eyewashes, showers, and drench hoses are not substitutes for proper eye and face protection such as chemical splash goggles, face shields, and protective clothing. (See Chemical Safety: Personal Protective Equipment Requirements.)

Eyewash and shower stations are required in areas where workers can come into contact with injurious corrosive chemicals. Supervisors responsible for such areas must

- Know where the equipment is located.
- Ensure that workers who use corrosive chemicals are aware of the location and use of eyewash/shower stations.
- Make sure Chemical Safety: Emergency Eyewash/Shower Use Procedure is available at each station.
- Provide for maintenance, including keeping the stations clean.

2.1 Installation

2.1.1 All Installations

The following requirements apply to all emergency eyewash and shower installations.

1. Sole purpose must be as an eyewash or shower.
2. Travel time must be no greater than 10 seconds from the hazard. Passages/access to the unit must be unobstructed.
3. A single door may be in the path as long as it does not have a lock and opens toward the eyewash or shower.
4. The installation must be designed and positioned in such a way as to pose no hazard to the user.
5. The installation must be marked with a highly visible sign. The sign and unit must be well lit.
6. For outdoor installations, the unit will be protected from freezing or freeze-protected equipment must be installed. (Freeze-protected equipment is equipment designed to operate under freezing conditions.)

7. If shutoff valves are installed in the supply line for maintenance purposes, provisions must be made to prevent unauthorized shutoff.

8. The actuation valve must be simple to operate, activate the water source within one second of operation, and remain open until intentionally closed.

9. The manufacturer’s instructions covering installation, operation, inspection, and maintenance requirements must be provided with the eyewash or shower.

Note  Hand-held drench hoses may be installed to supplement an eyewashes or showers, but may not replace them.

2.1.2 Emergency Eyewash Installations

1. The eyewash nozzles must be positioned 33 to 45 inches from floor and 6 inches from the wall or nearest obstruction.

2. The water supply must be plumbed unless access to water is not feasible.

3. The water supply must provide 0.4 gallons per minute for at least 15 minutes.

4. For indoor installations, the eyewash drainpipes must be plumbed to a sink or directly to the sewer line.

5. Self-contained eyewash units may be used in areas where it is not feasible to install plumbed units.

2.1.3 Emergency Shower Installations

1. The shower will provide flushing from a height of at least 82 inches and not more than 96 inches from the surface on which the user stands.

2. The spray pattern will be a minimum of 20 inches wide at 60 inches above the floor.

3. The shower will provide a minimum flow of 20 gallons a minute for 15 minutes.

4. The installation of a floor drain is optional. If a floor drain is installed, it must be fitted with a temporary plug to protect the floor drains from chemical hazards (unless protected from spills by a covered sump or berm system).

5. The valve actuator must not be more than 69 inches above the floor, be simple to operate, and must activate the shower.

2.2 Inspection and Activation

The Environment, Safety, and Health (ESH) Division will inspect eyewash and shower stations annually and provide a written report to the owner. The owner is assumed to be the building manager but may be an ESH coordinator.

Plumbed eyewashes will be activated monthly by the owner to verify proper operation and run until the flushing fluid is clear. Self-contained eyewashes do not need to be activated but must be checked visually to determine if the flushing fluid needs to be changed or supplemented.
Showers will be activated and flushed monthly by the owner to verify proper operation and run until the flushing fluid is clear.

If the station fails to activate, the owner must remove it from service and notify ESH immediately.

3 Forms

The following are forms required by these requirements:

- Chemical Safety: Emergency Eyewash/Shower Activation Log Form (SLAC-I-730-0A09J-003)

4 Recordkeeping

The following recordkeeping requirements apply for these requirements:

- The results of the required activations or visual checks must be logged on a tag attached to the station, including the name of the person and the date.
- The results of annual inspections by the ESH Division must be provided in writing to the owner.

5 References

SLAC Environment, Safety, and Health Manual (SLAC-I-720-0A29Z-001)

- Chapter 53, “Chemical Safety”
  - Chemical Safety: Emergency Eyewash/Shower Use Procedure (SLAC-I-730-0A09C-008)
  - Chemical Safety: Accidental Exposure Requirements (SLAC-I-730-0A09S-041)
  - Chemical Safety: Personal Protective Equipment Requirements (SLAC-I-730-0A09S-017)

- Chapter 40, “Chemical Lifecycle Management”

Other SLAC Documents

- Hazard Communication and MSDS References

Other Documents