

Department of Construction Services
Bureau of School Facilities

BULLETIN

EYEWASH/DRENCH SHOWER FACILITIES

Eyewash/drench showers have two specific standards – safety and accessibility. The basic requirements for these units are derived from the OSHA Standards for safety. Because these units are provided in conjunction with a (school) program, they shall be made accessible and useable by persons with disabilities.

The Bureau of School Facilities Guidelines (Section 6 Master List, Item 13 B) is where the eyewash/drench shower is identified for Science Lab areas (Item 17 B for Shops/Finish areas). There are other areas that may require eyewash facilities due to the handling of potentially injurious materials, including but not limited to: science prep rooms, art studios, graphic arts with darkrooms, shops, janitor's areas and boiler rooms (with chemical mixing). The following applies to those areas as well.

Each OSHA item on the Master List has been discussed with any number of Connecticut Dept. of Labor (CTDOL) staff, as to how to apply. Although they usually don't investigate unless there is an injury or complaint, they have advised us of the applicable standards and interpretations, and provided the following as a guide:

Medical services and first aid - Section 1910.151

- (a) Employer shall ensure the ready availability of medical personnel.
 - (b) In the absence of an infirmary, provide trained staff to render first aid. Adequate first aid supplies shall be readily available.
 - (c) Where eyes or body 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.
- OSHA recognizes and relies on the consensus standard **ANSI Standard Z358.1** which provides detailed information regarding the installation and operation of emergency eyewash and shower equipment.
1. Both eye wash and drench shower are required (**pop-down units not acceptable**).
 2. Maximum travel from hazard to eyewash facilities - no more than 10 seconds to reach (75 feet).
 3. Emergency shower heads shall be capable of delivering 20 gpm for a minimum 15 minute period
 4. Tempered water should be provided for suitable protection.

It was further recommended that **Chemical Hygiene in Laboratories (Non-Mandatory) - Section 1910.1450, Appendices A & B** be used as a guide for "Prudent Practices".

NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards and the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) are recommended tools for determining program related hazards. (National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health/CDC)

The **general duty clause of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970** may be applicable. Section 5(a)(1) states, "Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees".

General requirements – Section 1910.132

- a. Employer has responsibility to assess and certify the workplace to determine hazards. The specific "Program" outline along with the MSDS sheets should be prepared as a part of the Hazards Communication Program and submitted to the local authorities having jurisdiction (usually the local fire marshal). Whenever the program changes, the assessment should be updated to ensure adequate safeguards are available. Hazards are to be determined by the practice/use of the space.
- b. Employer has responsibility to ensure the adequacy of protective equipment.
- c. Employer shall train each employee.

For further information and interpretations go to www.osha.gov