



EMERGENCY EYEWASH STATIONS & SHOWERS BEST PRACTICES

Emergency eyewash stations and showers are important tools to keep workers safe when working with corrosive chemicals. The following best practices will assist your agency in ensuring compliance with Emergency Eyewash Stations and Shower requirements.



Corrosive chemicals are frequently used in the workplace. OSHA defines corrosive materials as "a chemical that causes visible destruction of, or irreversible alterations in living tissue by chemical action at the site of contact." Common corrosives include bleach, oven and grill cleaners, and chlorine.

General Requirements

[OSHA 1910.151](#) *Medical Services and First Aid*, paragraph (c) says, "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." Public employers should consider the current edition of ANSI/ Z358.1 – 2014 (R2020) *American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment* to determine whether they meet the standard.

Location and Temperature

Per ANSI/ Z358.1 – 2014 (R2020), an Emergency Eyewash Station and Shower shall provide at least fifteen minutes of continual flushing by tepid water in the range of 60 F to 100 F (16 C to 38 C) within 55 feet or 10 seconds from the corrosive materials. Additionally, nozzles and flushing fluid units shall be protected from any airborne contaminants.



Weekly Inspections

Once a week, plumbed emergency eyewash stations and showers shall be activated weekly for a period long enough to verify operation and ensure that flushing fluid is available. An [Emergency Eyewash & Shower Weekly Checklist](#) is available on [MSI Forms & Docs](#).

Annual Inspection

Plumbed emergency eyewash stations and showers must be inspected annually. The examination should include the following:

- With the unit correctly connected to the flushing fluid source and the valve(s) closed, visually check the piping connections for leaks.
- Open the valve to the fully open position. The valve shall remain open without requiring further use of the operator's hands.
- With the valve in the fully open position, make sure that both eyes will be washed simultaneously at a velocity low enough to be non-injurious to the user. Using the flowmeter or other means, determine that the rate of flow is at least 1.5 liters per minute (0.4 gpm).
- Using a temperature gauge or other means, determine that the flushing fluid is tepid.