

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Requestor:

Requestor Phone:

Requestor Email:

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 19 September 2016

Response Date: 23 September 2016

Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

██████████ requested guidance on emergency shower and eye wash station requirements. Specifically, she wanted to know if her organization needs shower and eye wash stations in a particular hospital department area, how they determine where the installments are mandatory, and if it is based on the substances they have on the chemical inventory list.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE team sent a request for recommended resources or anecdotal comments from a number of our Subject Matter Expert Cadre members. The section below includes these comments and resources. If you would like to contact any of these SMEs, please let us know and we can connect you.

I. SME Comments

- Eye wash and drench showers (which are not the same thing) are required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) if there is an immediate potential for exposure to corrosive materials to harm eyes and skin, and where hazardous drugs are compounded or otherwise could be spilled. Below are some pertinent resources:
 - https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_id=9806&p_table=STANDARDS
 - <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hazardousdrugs/index.html>
 - https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10106
- These standards have been in place for an extended period, and those who implement the standards follow the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) on eyewash stations. The ANSI Z 358.1-2014 edition is the most recent:
 - <http://www.eyewashdirect.com/ANSI-Eyewash-Z358-Eyewash-Standard-Guides/31.htm>
- There are other standards as well (e.g., the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard), which require an evaluation of exposures to staff. The use of engineering controls and development of Emergency Action Plans to protect employees in these situations is a requisite.
 - https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=standards&p_id=10051

- Hence, eyewash stations are required in immediate areas where a qualified person has identified a potential for eye or skin exposures to corrosive or otherwise injurious materials and/or hazardous drugs. Their placement installation / maintenance and use (including training of staff) is explained in the most recent version of ANSI Z 358.1-2014 (mentioned above). The decision must be made by a qualified individual, and YES, is based on the substances (chemical) which are in the immediate area.
- The general field test for the use/ placement is to have an employee close their eyes at the point of potential exposure and determine if they can get to the eyewash station and activate it within 15 seconds.