UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY EYE WASHES AND SAFETY SHOWERS Procedure No: S-08-016

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

Emergency eye washes and safety showers will be provided where their use is indicated due to the presence of corrosive compounds.

PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE

To provide treatment to individuals who may be exposed to injurious compounds.

PROCEDURE

Eye washes and safety showers shall be readily available to individuals and clearly labeled in accordance with the OSHA Standard 1910.151(c), and comply withANSI Z358.1-2014 guidelines.

Eye/face wash equipment must deliver minimum of 3 gallons (11.4 L) per minute of water for 15 minutes. Eyewash only must deliver minimum of .4 gallon (1.5 L) per minute of water for 15 minutes. Showers must deliver a minimum of 75.7 liters per minute and provide a column of water 20 inches wide at 60 inches above the surface floor of user. Outlets shall be protected from airborne contaminates. The safety equipment must also be accessible within 10 seconds of hazard (approx. 55ft), and on the same level of hazard, free of obstructions. The emergency units shall provide tepid flushing fluids, and must meet standards for coverage areas. The emergency units shall be designed so that flushing flow can be activated in one second or less, and remain on without the use of operators hands.

It is the responsibility of the Laboratory Director or Department Manager to ensure eye washes and safety showers are provided and tested. All employees in their area subject to exposures are instructed on location and proper use of emergency equipment.

Department managers shall contact Environmental Health and Radiation Safety for selection, acquisition and installation of emergency eye wash stations and appropriate signage.

Contact Environmental Health and Radiation Safety for a site/process evaluation to determine if eyewashes/safety showers are necessary.

Eye wash bottles and portable stations are not an acceptable substitute for eye washes where plumbed water is available. Further, the potential for microbial growth within bottled solutions may present additional hazards to potential users. Thus their use is generally not recommended, except as approved by the Environmental Health and Radiation Safety Department. Where portable stations are used it is the department managers job to ensure antimicrobrial solutions are used. Where eyewash bottles are used it is the department managers job to ensure proper replacement of bottles per manufacturer expiration dates.

<u>Eyewashes and Safety Showers in Clinical Areas</u>

Managers/Directors of departments or laboratories (or designee) are responsible for weekly documented inspections on an inspection checklist. Records of weekly checks should be maintained for at least three years. Replacement inspection checklists can be obtained from Environmental Health and Radiation Safety's website under "forms". An eyewash risk assessment for clinical areas is available in the Environmental Health and Radiation Safety Department. It is the responsibility of the manager/director (or their designee) to check/test safety showers in clinical areas.

Annually, Environmental Health and Radiation Safety will test clinical area showers and eyewashes using a minimum performance checklist developed from the ANSI Z358.1-2014 standards. These records can be obtained from the Environmental Health and Radiation Safety Department.

Eyewashes and Safety Showers in Non-Clinical Areas

Eyewashes in university areas should be tested by Managers/Directors of departments or laboratories (or their designee) weekly and documented on or near the unit on an inspection checklist. Replacement inspection checklists can be obtained from Environmental Health and Radiation Safety's website under "forms". It is the responsibility of laboratory Principal Investigators, laboratory managers (or their designee) to ensure that all safety showers are tested on a regular basis and documented on or near the unit on an inspection checklist.

Source: Safety & Health Committee

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