

**North Carolina Department of Labor  
Occupational Safety and Health Division**

**Raleigh, North Carolina**

Field Information System

Standards Notice 46A

**Subject:** Emergency Eyewash and Safety Shower Requirements

**A. Standards.**

1. 29 CFR 1910.111(b)(10)(iii) states, “Stationary storage installations shall have an easily accessible shower or a 50-gallon drum of water.”
2. 29 CFR 1910.151(c) states, “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.”
3. 29 CFR 1910.261(g)(18)(i) states, “Quick operating showers, bubblers, etc., shall be available for emergency use in case of caustic soda burns.”
4. 29 CFR 1910.262(pp) states, “Wherever acids or caustics are used, provision shall be made for a copious and flowing supply of fresh, clean water.”
5. 29 CFR 1910.268(b)(2)(i) states, “... Facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided unless the storage batteries are of the enclosed type and equipped with explosion proof vents, in which case sealed water rinse or neutralizing packs may be substituted for the quick drenching or flushing facilities.”
6. 29 CFR 1910.111(b)(10)(iv) states, “Each vehicle transporting ammonia in bulk except farm applicator vehicles shall carry a container of at least five gallons of water..”
7. 29 CFR 1910.1030(e)(3)(i) states, “Each laboratory shall contain a facility for hand washing and an eye wash facility which is readily available within the work area.”
8. 29 CFR 1926.403(a)(6) states, “Facilities for quick drenching of the eyes and body shall be provided within 25 feet of the work area for emergency use.”

**D. Background.**

As noted above, several OSHA standards contain requirements for facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body in the event of an emergency. However, none of these standards contain specific criteria regarding the installation and performance of such equipment.

**E. Interpretation.**

Where an OSHA standard requires the presence of a suitable emergency eyewash and/or safety shower, and the employer has installed a unit that meets the specifications of ANSI Z358.1, this unit will be deemed to be in compliance if appropriate for the extent of splash or spatter hazard(s) present.

For purposes of this Notice, a faucet-mounted eyewash unit that has been designed and tested as meeting the criteria set forth in ANSI Z358.1 will be deemed in compliance for any unit required in accordance with 1910.151(c) where deemed appropriate for the type of splash or spatter hazard present. A faucet-mounted unit will not be deemed in compliance when a full body emergency safety shower is also necessary.

**F. Effective Date.**

SN 46 is canceled. This SN is effective on the date of signature. It will remain in effect until revised or canceled by the Director.

Signed on Original

J. Edgar Geddie, Ph.D.  
Health Standards Officer

Signed on Original

Allen McNeely  
Director

8/09/05

Date of Signature