

EYE WASH STATIONS

We are in the process of building a business case, (pro or con), for the installation of plumbed eyewash stations when associates are exposed to corrosive chemicals in the workplace. We are seeking your feedback below to help us assess what other employers may or may not be doing to address this issue.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to answer the following questions.

BACKGROUND

OSHA requires eyewash stations when associates are exposed to corrosive materials in the workplace. OSHA references ANSI standard Z358.1-1990 for eyewash equipment and installation requirements as follows:

- The water flow must activate in one second or less
- The eyewash equipment must have a stay-open valve installation
- Once activated the water must flow continuously for at least 15 minutes
- The eye wash station shall be located in an area that requires no more than ten (10) seconds to reach. (An average person covers a distance of approximately 55 feet in 10 seconds when walking at a normal pace.)
- The use of tepid water is a requirement. Tepid water is defined as 60°F for the lower limit and 100°F as the upper limit. (In many cases this requires a plumbed mixing valve)

QUESTIONS

- 1. Do your stores have corrosive materials in the workplace that your associates use and are potentially exposed to?**

Yes - 21 No - 3 Don't know - 0

Comments:

- a) These are only from our pallet jack and fork lift trucks.
- b) We do not have eyewash stations. The dishwashing detergent is the reason we answered "yes" to question no. 1. However, someone would have to slosh the dishwashing detergent pretty hard to get it to splash.

2. If yes, what type of eyewash stations and/or equipment is in place?

Plumbed - 16 Wall Mount Bottles – 10 Other - 2

Comments:

- a) These are only from our pallet jack and fork lift trucks.
- b) Some stores thru merger/acquisition do not have yet
- c) Each division is unique in what they use in stores; wall mounted bottles are more common
- d) Gravity feed eyewash

3. If plumbed, do your eyewash stations and/or equipment meet the above ANSI requirements?

Yes - 14 No – 3 Don't know - 4

Comments:

- a) These are only from our pallet jack and fork lift trucks.
- b) Some stores do very well. Others are missing the one second requirement
- c) Not all installed with mixing valve
- d) We were fined by OSHA after an accident for not meeting this requirement. OSHA tried to mandate we put plumbed eyewash stations in all stores. We had our attorney handle the case because we do have eyewash stations (bottles). OSHA agreed to drop the fine as long as we make sure we educate our associates on where the eyewash stations are located. We are doing that now.

4. What department(s) are your plumbed eyewash stations presently located in? (Check those that apply.)

Deli - 4 Produce - 5 Meat/Seafood - 4 Other - 17

Comments:

- a) Other - Receiving
- b) Other - back room, due to forklift and pallet jack battery charging
- c) Other – back room, Prepared Foods
- d) Other - We have them located near our claims area (where we process customer returns) and maintenance hub.
- e) Other - Bakery
- f) Other - Drains into five gallon buckets and or utility drainage station
- g) Other - varies by store but generally not in a department
- h) Other - maintenance area

- i) We do not currently utilize eye wash stations in our stores, we do have eye wash bottles located at our first aid stations. We do however utilize eyewash stations in our Distribution and Manufacturing Plants due to the corrosive materials that are used on a daily basis. These are plumbed devices and meet the current OSHA requirements.
- j) Other - Maintenance
- k) Other - Mop Sink
- l) Other - Grocery backroom, by chemical storage lockers, and charging stations
- m) Other - Bakery and Maintenance Area
- n) Other - Receiving
- o) Not all stores have plumbed eyewash stations. We are moving towards all stores having them. Where they exist now, are mostly in store mechanics work rooms.
- p) Other - Maintenance/Janitorial Stations