



Emergency Eyewash, Eye/Facewash, and Shower Stations: The ANSI/ISEA Z358.1 Standard

Written by the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA), ANSI Z358.1 defines emergency shower and eyewash design, location, and temperature requirements for proper functionality and usage. OSHA references the ANSI standard during site inspections and violation reporting and is the recognized source of guidance to comply with OSHA 1910.151(c).

ANSI Z358.1 was first published in 1981, and has had revisions in 1990, 1998, 2004, 2009, and 2014.

ANSI Z358.1-2014 key points:

- Emergency showers shall be designed, manufactured, and installed in such a manner that, once activated, one can be used without requiring the use of the operator's hands.
- Valve must easily activate in a second or less and remain open on its own until it is intentionally turned off, and must be resistant to corrosion.
- All units must be capable of delivering a minimum of 15 minutes of flushing fluid and flow at the minimum gallon per minute requirement.
- Plumbed units shall be activated weekly to ensure proper flow. Duration should be long enough to clear stagnant water from any dead leg length of piping.
- Self-contained eyewashes shall be visually checked weekly to determine if flushing fluid needs to be changed or supplemented. Such inspection shall

be conducted in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Change water as required and use bacteria fighting additive.

- Emergency washes must be within 55 ft. of, or take no more than 10 seconds to reach. The path to the fixture must not be hindered with obstructions.
- Eyewash and Drench Shower Stations must be installed in a well-lit area and identified with a highly visible safety sign.
- Temperature range for water delivered to all eyewashes, eye and face washes, and combination eye/face wash and shower units shall be between 60 degrees and 100 degrees Fahrenheit. A temperature around 85 degrees Fahrenheit offers the most comfort to user.
- An eye/face and shower wash combination unit shall deliver an adequate simultaneous flushing stream for both the shower and eyewash when activated and shall flow at a minimum of 20 gallons per minute.

Lastly, recent OSHA statistics show that only 12% of workplaces inspected are in full compliance with the law regarding emergency wash stations:

Conney Safety can assist with providing Weekly/Annual Tags and Checklists for record keeping.

02/10/18