

Manitoba

PART 21 - EMERGENCY WASHING FACILITIES

21.1 This Part applies to every workplace where hazardous, irritating or corrosive substances are used.

Duty to provide emergency washing facilities

21.2(1) An employer must provide emergency washing facilities at a workplace where hazardous, irritating or corrosive substances are used.

21.2(2) An employer must assess the risk of exposure to hazardous, irritating or corrosive substances in the workplace in consultation with

- (a) the committee at the workplace;
- (b) the representative at the workplace; or
- (c) when there is no committee or representative, the workers at the workplace.

Interpretation: 21.2(1) says the facilities “must” be provided but 21.2(2) and (3) says an assessment of the risk must be performed and the appropriate number be installed. Presumably, if the assessment does not find a risk, the appropriate number would be zero. Thus, despite the wording in the first section, the combined wording of all sections implies that no such facilities are needed if that is the finding of the assessment.

21.2(3) An employer must provide the number and type of emergency washing equipment that is sufficient to address the risk of exposure to hazardous, irritating or corrosive substances as determined by the assessment under subsection (2).

21.2(4) An employer must ensure that the emergency washing equipment provided at the workplace meets the requirements and is installed, tested and maintained in accordance with

- (a) ANSI Standard Z358.1-04, *American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment*; and
- (b) the equipment manufacturer's specifications.

Location and identification of washing equipment

21.3 An employer must ensure that

- (a) the emergency washing equipment is located in the workplace and clearly identified in accordance with the requirements of ANSI Standard Z358.1-04, *American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment*; and
- (b) unimpeded access to the equipment is provided.

Training

21.4 An employer must ensure that a worker who may be required to use emergency washing equipment is trained in the use of the equipment in accordance with the requirements of

- (a) ANSI Standard Z358.1-04, *American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment*; and
- (b) the equipment manufacturer's specifications.

Personal eyewash unit

21.5(1) In addition to the emergency washing equipment required under section 21.2, an employer may provide a personal eyewash unit to a worker and a worker may use the unit to immediately flush an eye injury.

21.5(2) When a worker has used a personal eyewash unit to flush an eye injury, an employer must ensure that the worker immediately uses the emergency washing equipment provided in the workplace.

Alberta Health and Safety Legislation

Section 24 Emergency baths, showers, eye wash equipment

The requirements of this section apply to any work site where chemicals harmful to the eyes or skin are used, not just chemical plants or laboratories. The employer is required to provide facilities so that chemicals splashed into the eyes or onto the body can be immediately diluted and washed away. Quick dilution and removal helps to minimize potential damage to the eyes, skin and body parts exposed to the chemical.

The facilities selected must be appropriate to the hazard and the extent to which workers are exposed to that hazard. For example, in a chemical processing plant where the potential exists for a worker to receive a chemical splash to the entire body, shower and eye wash stations must be provided. At another workplace where the hazard is limited to exposure of the eyes and face, an eye wash station may be sufficient.

BC Legislation

5.85 Where required

The employer must ensure that appropriate emergency washing facilities are provided within a work area where a worker's eyes or skin may be exposed to harmful or corrosive materials or other materials which may burn or irritate.

5.86 Water supply

- (1) For a plumbed emergency eyewash facility, the employer must ensure that only a potable water supply is used.

- (2) For a portable (non-plumbed) eyewash unit, the employer must ensure that only potable water or an isotonic saline flushing solution is used.

5.87 Access

The employer must ensure that access to emergency eyewash and shower facilities is not blocked by material or equipment.

5.88 Risk assessment

The employer must ensure that the selection of emergency washing facilities is based upon an assessment of the risks present in the workplace.

OSHA Legislation

As the OSHA standard states, an eyewash and/or safety shower would be required where an employee's eyes or body could be exposed to **injurious corrosive** materials. If none of the materials used in this work area is an injurious corrosive (as indicated by the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each product), then an emergency eyewash or shower would not be required pursuant to 1910.151(c).

The OSHA standard restricts the need for eyewash stations and emergency showers to locations where workers could be exposed to “injurious” chemicals.