

# QUICK GUIDE TO DETERMINING EYE WASH REQUIREMENTS

Ministries of Labour enforce the compliance to **MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet)** requirements

## Introduction

Under what circumstances are Eye Wash units required? Most common hazards include painting, chemical storage/usage, battery charging areas, etc. If you already are using chemical resistant gloves, respirators, or chemical resistant goggles, chances are the MSDS will require a 15-Minute Primary Eye Wash Device. As I am sure you are aware, legislation requires you have current MSDS on file for all chemicals used in your facility (i.e. cleaning compounds, battery charging areas, solvents, photocopy toner, whiteout, etc.).

## Your MSDS Provides Crucial Information

- A copy of the MSDS should be readily available for review by all employees. Backup copies of the MSDS should be available in your Safety and Medical Department and/or front office.
- Review the MSDS First Aid Measure Section to ensure the proper Eye Wash Equipment is implemented.
- In the event of an emergency, the MSDS for that particular hazardous substance should be identified and brought with the injured party when further medical help is sought. This will aid medical personnel in the proper treatment of the injury. For additional information on WHMIS stations, click [here](#).

## Definition of Primary Eye Wash Device

A Primary Eye Wash Device may be a self-contained, portable, or plumbed unit that:

- I. Activates within 1 second or less,
- II. Flushes both eyes simultaneously,
- III. Provides hands free operation,
- IV. ANSI Z358.1-2004 requires the delivered flushing fluid temperature shall be tepid (moderately warm, lukewarm). This is to encourage the full 15-Minutes of flushing. In other words... No ice cream headaches!
- V. ANSI Z358.1-2004 requires eye wash units to deliver adequate amounts of water (15 minutes) for rinsing; however, the water flow has to be softened so the force does not drive the contaminants into the optic system. This is one of many reasons why the garden hose idea is not acceptable.
- VI. Delivers not less than 0.4 gpm (1.5 Lpm) for a **minimum of 15 minutes** (copious amounts),
- VII. For further information, click [here](#).

## Additional ANSI Z358.1-2004 Standards Requirements

- Emergency Eye Wash equipment is no more than 10 seconds to reach.
- Path of travel should be free of obstructions that may inhibit the immediate use of the emergency eye wash unit.
- For strong acids or strong caustics, the Eye Wash should be immediately adjacent to hazard.
- All employees who may be exposed to hazardous material shall receive the appropriate training as per ANSI Z358.1-2004 Standards. For more information, click [here](#) ([WPCC™ 15 minute Primary Eye Wash Products – now available](#)).

## Definition of Secondary/Personal Eye Wash Device

[Secondary/Personal Eye Wash Devices](#) do not meet the standard for 15-minute primary devices and are, therefore, intended for support use, not as a replacement for self-contained, or plumbed units. These devices are located in the immediate vicinity of employees working in a potentially hazardous area and are used to deliver initial first aid while getting the person to a 15-minute primary unit, or as extended aid when transporting a person from the 15-minute primary eye wash unit to a medical facility. Secondary / Personal Eye Wash devices provide **less than 15 minutes** (copious amounts) of the flushing required.

