

EYEWASH REQUIREMENTS

"The strength of an acidic or basic solution is commonly reported as pH. The pH can be measured with pH paper or a pH meter. pH can range from 0 (very acidic) to 14 (very basic or alkaline). A material with a pH of 0 to ≤ 2 , or ≥ 11 to 14 will, at the very least, cause significant eye irritation and may cause permanent damage or blindness. For skin, a $\text{pH} \leq 1$ or ≥ 12 is considered hazardous. However, a pH between 2 and 11 (or between 1 and 12 for skin) does not necessarily mean that a material will not cause injury (certain materials with pH between 2 and 11 may be extremely damaging to the eyes and skin). Alkaline solutions tend to be more damaging to the eyes and skin than acidic solutions. Consult the material safety data sheet (MSDS) and/or label of the substance in question for pH and health effects. If the MSDS indicates irritation only, an eyewash or eyewash and shower may not be required. The employer is encouraged to check further with other references and with the product manufacturer to confirm that eyewash or eyewash and shower is not needed. If the MSDS states that burns, corneal damage, blindness or eye damage may occur, the material would be considered hazardous and an eyewash or eyewash and shower must be provided. Further information may be available through Internet web sites that feature MSDSs....In general, adequate eye and face protection and protective clothing should be provided if an eyewash or eyewash and shower is required. The use of personal protective equipment does not change the requirement for an eyewash or shower. Note that, in general, tight-fitting goggles should be worn if eye protection is required. Face shields or safety glasses do not provide adequate protection."

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Below are some references to use with regards to eye protection and emergency eyewashes. Guidance is to review the chemicals/hazards in the area, work practices, to evaluate the hazard. Identify if (1) they are working with corrosives at PH levels that pose a hazard to mucous membranes and (2) are conducting activities in which splash hazards are present.

Eye Hard assessment form:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10120

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owaredirect.html?p_url=http://www.epa.gov/region7/education_resources/teachers/ehsstudy/ehs13.htm

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/eyefaceprotection/index.html>

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owaredirect.html?p_url=http://www.gov.mb.ca/labour/safety/pdf/bulletins/bltn104.pdf