
Facility Eyewash Station and Emergency Shower Weekly Flush

1.0 Objective & Intent

This SOP defines the safety protocols for performing a weekly flush of all facility eyewash stations and emergency showers. The primary objective is to ensure that these emergency safety devices are fully operational, free of sediment and microbial contamination, and capable of delivering a continuous flow of tepid water for the required duration in the event of a chemical splash or eye exposure. This procedure is mandated by WorkSafeBC regulations (OHS Guideline G4.87-1) and ANSI Z358.1-2014 standards to guarantee immediate and effective emergency response.

Failure to perform weekly flushes can result in stagnant water that harbors bacteria (e.g., *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*), blocked nozzles from debris, and non-functional valves, all of which pose a serious risk to personnel who may require emergency decontamination. This SOP mitigates the risk of secondary infection, equipment failure, and regulatory non-compliance.

2.0 Operational Scope

This procedure applies to all eyewash stations and emergency showers installed in the cabinet and millwork manufacturing facility, including the main production floor, finishing/spray booth area, maintenance shop, chemical storage room, and any other designated locations. It applies to all maintenance personnel, safety officers, and designated operators responsible for weekly testing. This SOP does not cover plumbed-in units only; self-contained or gravity-fed units must follow manufacturer-specific maintenance schedules in addition to this weekly flush.

3.0 Hazard Identification & Mandatory PPE

- **Water Spray/Splash:** High-pressure water from showers or eyewash nozzles may splash onto the operator, causing slips or wet clothing. Wear a waterproof apron or rain suit.
- **Slip/Trip Hazard:** Water on the floor during flushing creates a slip hazard. Ensure the area is clear and use wet floor signs.
- **Chemical Residue:** Residual chemicals in the drain or on the unit may be disturbed. Wear chemical-resistant gloves (nitrile or neoprene).
- **Pinch Points:** Actuation handles and valves may have pinch points. Keep hands clear of moving parts.
- **Mandatory PPE:** Safety glasses with side shields (or face shield if splash risk is high), CSA-approved steel-toed rubber boots, waterproof apron, and chemical-resistant gloves.

4.0 Required Safety Equipment & Tools

- Waterproof apron or rain suit
- Chemical-resistant gloves (nitrile or neoprene)
- Safety glasses with side shields or face shield
- CSA-approved steel-toed rubber boots
- Wet floor warning signs (at least two per test area)
- Stopwatch or timer (to verify 15-minute flow duration for showers, 15 minutes for eyewash)
- Bucket or catch basin (to collect water if floor drainage is inadequate)
- Mop and absorbent pads for spill cleanup
- Inspection checklist and pen (or digital device for SafeDesk sign-off)
- Flashlight (to inspect nozzles and drain grates)

5.0 Step-by-Step Safety Procedure

1. Notify all personnel in the vicinity of the eyewash/shower location that a weekly flush test is about to begin. Post wet floor signs around the test area and ensure no one is standing directly under or near the unit.
2. Don all required PPE: safety glasses or face shield, chemical-resistant gloves, waterproof apron, and steel-toed rubber boots. Ensure the floor drain (if present) is clear of debris and the area is free of tripping hazards.
3. For the emergency shower: Pull the activation handle or push the lever to initiate full flow. Allow water to run for a minimum of 15 minutes (use a stopwatch). Verify that the water stream is continuous, free of visible sediment or discoloration, and that the flow pattern covers a minimum diameter of 20 inches at 60 inches above the floor.
4. While the shower is running, inspect the water temperature using your gloved hand. The water must be tepid (between 60°F/15.5°C and 100°F/37.8°C). If the water is too hot or too cold, tag the unit out of service and report to maintenance immediately.
5. For the eyewash station: Activate the eyewash by pushing the handle or stepping on the foot pedal. Let water flow for a minimum of 15 minutes. Verify that both nozzles are delivering a gentle, aerated stream that washes both eyes simultaneously without causing injury. Check that the nozzles are free of debris and that the spray pattern is consistent.
6. During the eyewash flush, inspect the nozzle caps (if present) for dust or debris. Remove and clean caps if necessary. Ensure the unit is free of visible mold or algae growth. If any contamination is found, the unit must be sanitized per manufacturer instructions and retested before being returned to service.
7. After the 15-minute flush, shut off the shower and eyewash station by returning the handle to the off position or closing the valve. Ensure the unit resets properly and that there are no leaks from the valve or piping.
8. Dry the area thoroughly using a mop or absorbent pads. Remove wet floor signs once the floor is completely dry. Record the test on the inspection checklist or in the SafeDesk digital log, noting the date, time, unit location, water temperature, flow quality, and any corrective actions taken.
9. If any deficiencies were noted (e.g., low flow, temperature out of range, visible contamination), immediately tag the unit out of service with a lockout tag and notify the maintenance supervisor. Do not leave the unit in a state where it could be used unsafely.
10. Repeat the procedure for all eyewash stations and emergency showers in the facility. Ensure that each unit is tested weekly on the same day to maintain a consistent schedule. File the completed checklist in the safety binder or upload to SafeDesk for audit trail.

Regulatory Disclaimer: This document is a generic safety template provided for educational and informational purposes only. It does not constitute professional engineering, legal, or regulatory compliance advice. The end-user assumes all liability for validating all safety protocols against specific machinery manufacturer manuals and local occupational health and safety regulations (e.g., WorkSafeBC, CSA standards) before deployment.