

### Safety Sheet 4 – Eyewash Stations

Consult the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations for detailed information.

1. Eyewash stations must be provided where a worker is exposed to a risk of eye injury caused by contact with a biological, chemical or other harmful substance to the eyes.
2. All employees, professors, students, volunteers, and visitors must be instructed in the location and proper use of eyewash stations.
3. Faculties and services (specifically, area and lab supervisors) must ensure that eyewash stations are working properly and inspected **every week (for tepid water) and every month (for cold water)**. The **inspection checklist** must be used to inspect the eyewash station and must be signed, dated, and kept as a record of the inspection.
4. Facilities will perform a complete maintenance service of each eyewash station, including flow, spray pattern, volume, valve, etc., **every 12 months**, and records of these inspections must be kept.
5. Eyewash stations must be installed within 10 seconds' travel along an unobstructed path from the location of the hazard.
6. Eyewash stations must be installed and used according to their manufacturer specifications.
7. Eyewash stations must be identified with a highly visible sign.
8. Eyewash stations must be easily accessible at all times.
9. The area around all eyewash stations shall be well-lit.
10. Current eyewash stations operate with water from the main cold water supply for each building. New eyewash installations will use tepid water.
11. Spray patterns and flow rates must meet the guidelines specified in ANSI Z358.1-2014.
12. Stay-open valves must be in place and operable to allow an individual to use both hands to hold eyes open or to remove clothing (hands-free operation).
13. Wastewater from stations should not create a hazard (i.e., slips and falls, floods, etc.)
14. Where feasible or required, drains should be provided. If drainage is provided, drain piping should be connected to the building's sewer system.
15. Installation of new eyewash or face wash stations must meet or exceed the requirements of ANSI Z358.1-2014. Basins and "mushroom type" faucets are recommended.



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## Eyewash Inspection Record: Post this document near the eyewash station

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency:  Weekly     Monthly

Date																															
Run for 3 minutes.																															
Eyewash station identified by a highly visible sign.																															
The area around eyewash is free of all obstructions.																															
There are no sharp projections in the vicinity of the eyewash operating area.																															
Eyewash is easily activated.																															
Nozzles are equipped with protective covers.																															
Cover(s) are removed by eyewash activation.																															
Water flows from both eyepieces.																															
Water flows to equal heights from both eyepieces.																															
If water not initially clear, it becomes clear after 3 minutes' flow.																															
Spray pattern delivers steady stream and proper direction of water.																															
Flow continues until activation mechanism returns to resting position.																															
Water drains from the bowl/sink.																															

Notify the Building Management Agent and/or your supervisor immediately if you are unable to check off one of the inspection criteria. The situation must be corrected immediately.