



3.19 Chemical Safety Management

Information Sheet : Emergency Safety Shower and Eyewash Testing

Purpose

The purpose of this information sheet is to guide the University on the testing requirements for emergency safety showers and eyewash facilities.

Q1 Which Australian standard outlines the testing requirements for emergency safety showers and eyewash facilities?

AS 4775 (2007) "Emergency eyewash and shower equipment and testing regimes" sets out the requirements for the regular testing of the University's Emergency Safety Showers and Eyewash facilities.

The standard provides information that assists the University in meeting its WHS obligations and to protect the health and safety of students and employees in the event of an emergency. Regular testing ensures that emergency equipment is operational and the water is clear of contamination in the event that someone has been exposed to hazardous materials which may cause injury to the eyes or body e.g. a chemical spill.

Q2 How often are plumbed showers, eyewash's and shower/eyewash combination units to be activated?

The standard requires weekly activation for a period long enough to verify operation and ensure that clean flushing fluid is available. The intent is to ensure that there is a flushing fluid supply at the outlet of the device, to clear the supply line of any sediment build-up that could prevent fluid from being delivered to the outlet of the device and to minimize microbial contamination due to stagnant water. Schools/Branches are responsible for the regular activation of equipment in their area.

In addition to the above, all units are inspected annually under a contractual arrangement managed by Campus Services, to ensure conformance with the annual testing requirements of the standard. A tag is permanently attached to each shower unit, and the test is marked following the successful completion of the inspection.

Q3 Can the frequency of the testing be varied?

Yes. The frequency of the testing can be varied based on a documented risk assessment (consult with your HSO regarding this process).

Q4 Where there are no drains in some areas, how can the water be managed?

Periodic function testing should take into account water and drainage issues associated with location and plumbing restrictions. Emergency shower test sock and water catchment system (e.g. bucket) should be employed to minimise the creation of water hazards.

Q5 Are emergency shower/eyewash units connected to the building/local area emergency alarm system?

They maybe, however each area must identify whether an individual emergency shower/eyewash is connected to an emergency alarm system prior to function testing. If this is the case, arrangements must be made with the building Warden network and Campus Security to isolate the alarm prior to activation where possible.

Q6 Are testing records required?

Schools/Branches should maintain the records of the periodic activation which needs to identifies as a minimum:

- Item
- Location
- Any issues
- Date Tested
- Name of tester

Further Information

If you require further information, please contact a member of the [HSW Team](#).

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