Safety Shower/Eyewash & Drench Hose Testing Guideline

Scope and Purpose

This guideline applies to staff, students, visitors and contractors of Monash University in Australia.

These guidelines outline the requirements for installation and ongoing maintenance for safety showers, eyewash and drench hose stations.

Abbreviations

OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
OH&S	Monash Occupational Health & Safety
S.A.R.A.H.	Safety and Risk Analysis Hub

Definitions

A comprehensive list of definitions is provided in the Definitions tool. Definitions specific to these guidelines are provided below.

Drench Hose – A supplemental device consisting of a flexible hose connected to a flushing fluid supply and used to provide fluid to irrigate and flush face and body areas.

Safety Shower - A device specifically designed and intended to deliver flushing fluid in sufficient volume to cause the fluid to cascade over the entire body

Eyewash – A device specifically designed and intended to deliver flushing fluid in sufficient volume to irrigate and flush the eyes

Safety shower/eyewash requirements

1. Why are Safety shower/eyewash stations required?

Safety shower/eyewash and drench hose stations are required within work areas where there is a risk of coming into contact with hazardous chemicals. The Safety shower/eyewash and drench hose stations are a risk control measure that is intended to assist with reducing the impact to hazardous chemicals. This is achieved through a means of being able to wash off the affected areas with clean water thus reducing the impact of the chemical contact.

2. Requirements for a safety shower/eyewash station

2.1 Performance of the stay open valve

The valve shall remain open without the use of the operator's hands until the valve is intentionally closed

2.2 Shower Enclosures

Enclosures, if used, shall provide for a minimum unobstructed area of 864mm in diameter.

2.3 Location requirements for the safety shower/eyewash;

- Shall be positioned in accessible locations that require no more than 10s to be reached,
- Shall be located on the same level as the hazard,
- Shall have a path of travel that is free of obstructions that may inhibit the immediate use of the equipment,
- Shall be identified with a highly visible sign positioned so that the sign is visible throughout the area served by the safety shower/eyewash,
- The areas around the safety shower/eyewash shall be well illuminated.,

Eyewash specific requirements;

- Stored flushing fluid is protected against airborne contaminants,
- The eyewash unit shall be designed to provide enough room to allow the eyelids to be held open with the hands while the eyes are in the flushing fluid stream,
- The eyewash unit shall provide flushing fluid to both eyes simultaneously.

2.4 Local Inspections

Plumbed safety shower/eyewash equipment shall be activated weekly to verify;

- Sufficient flushing fluid is available. The weekly interval may be varied on the basis of a documented risk assessment,
- The activation valve will remain open without the use of the operator's hands until intentionally closed,
- The flow of water is clear,
- There is an even flow of water.

Eyewash specific requirements;

- The dust covers on the eyewash flip when the eyewash is activated,
- The dust covers are not damaged in any way.

3. Requirements for Drench Hoses

Supplementary equipment such as drench hoses may be installed and shall provide immediate flushing to support plumbed and self-contained equipment (e.g. safety shower/eyewash) but shall not replace them.

3.1 Performance for drench hoses

Drench hoses shall be designed to provide a controlled flow of flushing fluid to a portion of the body at a velocity low enough to not cause an injury to the user.

3.2 Performance of the control valve

The valve shall be simple to operate and shall go from closed to fully open in one second or less. The activation actuator may be manual or automatic and shall be easy to locate and readily accessible by the user.

3.3 Installation requirements for drench hoses

Drench hoses shall;

- Be located in an area identified with high visibility signage that is visible throughout the area served by the drench hose.
- The area around the drench hose shall be well lit and free from debris that could impact the immediate use of the equipment,
- The unit shall be capable of delivering a supply of tepid water.

3.4 Local inspections

Manufacturer instructions for using the drench hoses must be with drench hose equipment. Instructions shall be readily accessible to workers who are required to inspect the equipment.

The drench hose shall be activated weekly for a period long enough to verify operation and ensure that flushing fluid is available. The check should verify;

- That the water is flowing freely from the outlet of the device,
- The supply line is clear of any sediment build up,
- The line has been flushed to minimise the potential for microbial contamination due to sitting water.

4. *Equipment required for safety shower/eyewash and drench hose weekly test*

- Sock to guide water into a wheelie bin/drain or bucket (Photo 1,2,3)
- Wheelie bin with a drain or a bucket on a trolley with a drain (Photo 1,3)

Photo 1

Photo 2

Photo 3

Equipment may be purchased from suppliers such as;

- Pratt Safety Systems
- Blackwoods
- Setons
- Absafe

5. *Procedure for testing the safety shower/eyewash and drench hoses*

The safety shower/eyewash and drench hose testing must be conducted consistent with the following requirements;

- Move all the testing equipment to the safety shower/eye wash drench hose location
- Confirm with BPD if your safety shower/eyewash activation will trigger an alarm. If it will, advise BPD you will be testing the safety shower/eyewash station so the Engineering Services Officer (ESO) does not respond when the testing is being conducted
- Attach one end of the sock over the head of the safety shower
- Place the other end of the sock into the wheelie bin, bucket or drain
- Activate the safety shower using the handle and ensure the water remains running without contact from the operator's hands
- Run a small amount of water into the wheelie bin, bucket or drain and observe the colour of the water (ensure it is clear), ensure there is even flow and sufficient water coming from the Safety shower head
- Activate the eye wash, ensure the water is clear, there is even flow and the eye wash dust covers flip as required and are not damaged
- Where a drench hose has been installed;
  - The valve shall be simple to operate and shall go from closed to fully open in one second or less
  - Activate the fluid supply and verify there is a clear flow of water
  - Ensure any sitting water has been completely flushed
- Document the results of the testing and maintain the testing record form locally for verification purposes
- Any faults identified during the testing should be addressed by raising a Scout request.

Responsibility for Implementation

A comprehensive list of OHS responsibilities is provided in the document OHS Roles, Responsibilities and Committees Procedure. The specific responsibilities with respect to implementation and compliance with this guideline are listed below.

- **Heads of Academic/Administration Units:** It is the responsibility of the Head of the academic/administrative unit to ensure that these guidelines are implemented in their area.
- **Local OHS Committees:** It is the responsibility of local OHS committees to provide advice and feedback to heads of academic/administrative units on actions needed to comply with these guidelines.
- **Supervisors:** It is the responsibility of supervisors to ensure that a staff member is nominated to conduct the testing as required within this guideline in their areas of responsibility.

Tools

The following tool is associated with these guidelines:

Safety Shower/Eyewash Testing Poster

Legislation and Related Documents

Legislation Mandating Compliance

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)

Australian and International Standards

- ISO 45001: 2018 OHS Management Systems - Requirements with guidance for use.
- AS 4775-2007 Emergency eyewash and shower equipment

Monash OHS documents

- OHS Roles, Responsibilities and Committees Procedure

Document History

Version	Date of Issue	Changes made to document
1.0	October 2022	Safety shower/eyewash and drench hose testing Guidelines v.1.0