

SECTION TWO – MIOSHA REGULATIONS

PART 2: MIOSHA HEALTH REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 24: First Aid

24.1 First Aid

All employers who do not have medical services (clinic, ambulance, hospital, etc.) readily accessible must have a person or persons adequately trained to render first aid under the *MIOSHA General Industry Occupational Health Standards - Part 472, Medical Services and First Aid*. The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, MIOSHA, interprets "readily accessible" as within ten minutes travel time. If first aid providers are required on-site, the employer must also provide readily available first aid supplies. MIOSHA does not approve first aid kits or state the required contents of a first aid kit. First aid supplies should be ordered through consultation with a health care professional. Buyer beware!



Compliance with *MIOSHA General Industry Occupational Health Standards - Part 554, Bloodborne Infectious Diseases* is necessary if you have designated personnel to provide first aid services. If you are not required to and do not wish to designate first aid providers, a policy should be developed stating such. In this case, off-site sources must be relied on for provision of first aid services, and absolutely no employees have responsibility to provide first aid to co-workers. The employer should ensure that an off-site responder (e.g., ambulance service) is able to handle medical emergencies and is familiar with the facility location. It is strongly recommended that this policy be in writing, clearly communicated to all employees, and enforced. This will reduce confusion regarding compliance with the bloodborne infectious diseases rules.

Simply providing first aid training to employees or kits for employee use does not require an employer to comply with the bloodborne infectious diseases standard. As long as a policy, as described above, is in place, employees can use the kits themselves to treat minor injuries without the employer complying with the bloodborne infectious diseases standard.

24.2 Emergency Shower/Eyewash

Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious or corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body must be provided in the work area for immediate emergency use. Corrosive materials are normally considered to be caustic compounds if they have a pH of 9.0 or greater or acidic compounds if they have a pH of 4.0 or less in solution. A cleaner in a plating line is an example of a corrosive material found in some manufacturing facilities. The pH of a chemical usually can be obtained from the Material Safety Data Sheet (see Appendix E). Materials which,



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by their nature, are capable of causing severe tissue damage (i.e., formaldehyde, methyl ethyl ketone peroxide [MEKP], or other organic solvents), are also considered injurious.

Suitable facilities are considered to be plumbed or self-contained emergency shower and/or eyewash equipment or eye/face wash equipment meeting the design specifications of the American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment (ANSI Z 358.1-2004). Additionally, according to the American National Standards Institute, self-contained eyewash equipment or portable units must be capable of delivering to the eyes not less than 0.4 gallons (1.5 liters) per minute for 15 minutes (minimum total volume of six gallons or 22.7 liters). Self-contained emergency showers shall be capable of delivering a minimum of 20 gallons (75.7 liters) per minute for 15 minutes (minimum total volume of 300 gallons or 1135.6 liters).

Currently, MIOSHA recognizes a cold water pipe (carrying potable water at a pressure not exceeding 25 pounds per square inch) equipped with a quick-opening valve and a hand-held drench hose, or a standard hose at least 48 inches in length and not smaller than three-fourths (3/4) of an inch in diameter, as "suitable facilities." A shortcoming of this type of system is that both hands are not free to hold the eyelids open. Additionally, both eyes cannot be flushed simultaneously.

The proximity of the emergency shower and eyewash is determined by the injurious or corrosive nature of the chemical and its ability to cause tissue damage. Chemicals considered highly corrosive (i.e., pH < 2.0 or pH > 12.5) or capable of causing severe tissue damage must have, as appropriate, an emergency shower and eyewash station within 25 feet of the hazardous operation. The location of the station shall be clearly marked, well lit, and easily accessible. There should be no obstacles, closeable doorways, or turns.

Corrosive materials of an other-than-serious nature (i.e., pH > 2 and < 4 or pH > 9 and < 12.5) must have an appropriate station located within 100 feet of the hazard.

For more information regarding MIOSHA's "Application of Standards Requiring Emergency Eyewash/Shower Equipment" please review the following document on the MIOSHA website www.dleg.state.mi.us/wsh/docs/inst/miosha_std_07_1r1.doc.