

Subject: Powered Industrial Truck

Topic: Eye Wash and Shower Requirements

Question: Referring to Rule 408.12164 (9) When a battery powered HiLo is used plugged into a charger (NOT being changed or filled), is a plumbed eye wash and shower still required? Or are single use eye wash suitable since at no time the battery cells are being moved or opened?

Answer:

Rule 408.12164(9) reads: Where there is a potential for employee exposure to injurious corrosive electrolyte solutions, for example sulfuric acid, associated with battery powered industrial trucks, the employer shall provide both of the following:

(a) Personal protective equipment in accordance with General Industry Safety and Health Standard Part 33 “Personal Protective Equipment” and Occupational Health Standard Part 433 “Personal Protective Equipment,” as referenced in R 408.12111.

(b) Suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of eyes and body within the work area for immediate emergency use in accordance with Occupational Health Standard Part 472 “Medical Services and First Aid,” as referenced in R 408.12111.

The important aspect of the rule is “where there is a potential for employee exposure.” If the PIT is simply being plugged in and unplugged, there is no reasonable exposure. If at any point an employee is tasked with removing the battery or opening the battery cells to add water, then there would be exposure. If there is employee exposure, then both sub rules (a) and (b) need to be followed. For a single use eye wash station to be adequate, it must be capable of delivering 0.4 gallons of water per minute for 15 minutes (6 gallons total). For a single use shower to be adequate, it must be capable of delivering 20 gallons per minute for 15 minutes.

Applicable Construction Safety Standard/Rule:

Applicable General Industry Safety Standard/Rule: Part 21. Powered Industrial Trucks, R 408.12164(9)

Applicable Occupational Health Standard/Rule:

Additional Resources: [MIOSHA Eyewash Instruction](#)

For complimentary MIOSHA consultation please contact our office at 517-284-7720 or submit a [Request for Consultative Assistance \(RCA\)](#).

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