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1.0 PROCEDURE

This Standard Operating Procedure sets out the requirements for emergency eyewash stations and safety showers within the KRCBS and is utilizes elements from:

- American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard Z358.1-2009
- Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment as referenced in the Canadian Biosafety Standards and Guidelines (CBSC); and
- The Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) Industrial Regulation, 851, sections 124 and 125.

2.0 POLICY

General Guidelines

Emergency eyewash stations and safety showers must be operational and in good repair at any given time to offer first response decontamination to the eyes, face and body. The frequency at which inspections of the eyewashes and showers should be conducted is dependent on the risk assessment of the lab practices and hazards in the lab. Where it is deemed appropriate specific hazardous work should include an eyewash station check as part of a start-up procedure. Laboratories which are not in use, or seldom frequented, must have an inspection of the emergency eyewash stations and showers prior to any work with hazardous material. Only if the eyewashes and showers are found to be functional, and certified, should work in the lab begin. Note that within the KRCBS, maintenance on safety showers is carried out by the Engineering department.

Procedure for Routine Emergency Eyewash

Regular checks are vital in ensuring the proper function of the eyewash stations. The responsibility for performing routine inspections of the eye wash stations on units in the research labs falls to the labs

closest to an eye wash station. The responsibility for performing regular checks of the eye wash stations on units in the shared equipment areas falls under the Research Biological Safety Officer (BSO).

The importance of these checks is to test the functionality of the eyewash stations and assist in identifying any problems that would require servicing this important piece of safety equipment. Furthermore, frequent activation of the eyewashes and showers will help clear the supply line of sediments caused by still or sitting water that can lead to microbial contamination within the plumbed lines. Equally important as the equipment verification is adequate access to eliminate barriers, for example, temporary storage of other lab equipment directly in front of the eyewashes and showers.

Emergency showers should be checked for proper clearance/ access and visible signs of equipment damage regularly. Testing of eyewash stations should be performed on no less than a weekly basis but may be performed more frequently if warranted by the workplace hazard. The following steps outline the requirements for the Weekly Emergency Eyewash plumbed station inspections and check:

- Lab supervisors should delegate a responsible person to inspect and operate/activate the emergency eyewash station weekly in their lab area.
- Eyewash stations in shared areas will be the responsibility of the Research Biological Safety Officer or equivalent.
- Weekly checks should include activating the eyewash for approximately 2 minutes.
- Upon activation, any nozzle covers present should automatically disengage from the nozzle.
- The water should begin to flow from both nozzles within 1 second with equal pressure. If the unit does not operate as required, tag the unit “out of service” and contact Engineering for repair.
- The temperature should reach a tepid range within the first minute. If the temperature is too hot or cold, tag the unit as “out of service” and contact Engineering.
- The eyewash should remain active until the unit is turned off. If the eyewash does not stay active, inform the laboratory supervisor and contact Engineering.
- If the water does not turn off, immediately contact Engineering.
- The eyewash station should be unobstructed and easily accessed. If the access is obstructed, contact the BSO to arrange for immediate clearing of the obstacle.

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01	Director Research Facilities	October 17, 2022
02		
03		

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