

CHAPTER 19

SIGHT CONSERVATION

1901. Discussion

All Navy activities with personnel having exposure to eye hazardous operations shall implement a sight conservation program per the guidance established in this chapter and chapter 20. The activity sight conservation program shall include, but not be limited to, the following program elements:

- a. Identification and evaluation of eye hazardous areas, processes and occupations
- b. Prescription protection eyewear program
- c. Provision and maintenance of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) at government expense
- d. An employee training, promotion and emphasis program
- e. Effective program enforcement.

1902. Basic Program Requirements

a. Emergency Eyewash Facilities. Activities shall provide emergency eyewash facilities meeting the requirements of reference 19-1 in all areas where the employees' eyes may be exposed to corrosive materials. All such emergency facilities shall be located where they are easily accessible to those in need. Work centers shall activate plumbed eyewash units – weekly for a minimum of 3 minutes to flush the line and verify operation. Quarterly verification, typically by the safety office is recommended. Activation may be required more frequently if the activity's safety and/or occupational health staff determine it is necessary to ensure proper functioning and performance of the eyewash station.

Activities shall service pressurized and non-pressurized self-contained eyewash units quarterly or per the manufacturer's recommendations, whichever is more frequent. Quarterly maintenance shall include cleaning of the unit, replacement of water, and checking for proper operation. Where an additive is used in a self-contained eyewash unit, activities shall use additives specified by the manufacturer, and change fluid at an interval recommended by the manufacturer of the additive. Work centers shall maintain written, dated and signed maintenance records.

Activities shall only use self-contained eyewash units on a temporary basis until permanent emergency eyewash facilities are installed or at remote locations where water is not readily available. Activities shall not use personal eyewash units.

1903. Occupational Eye Care Services and Equipment

The activity OSH office shall consult with supply officers and the cognizant medical activity to determine the most suitable procurement procedures when prescription protective eyewear is

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required. When Navy medicine provides these services, all medical forms and evaluations must be documented according to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Manual of Medical Department, NAVMED P117.

1904. Temporary Protective Eyewear

Where protective corrective eyewear is necessary, activities shall provide planos or goggles to visitors, instructors and others who must enter or pass through eye hazardous areas. In addition, they shall be provided to employees awaiting delivery of corrective-protective eyewear.

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References

19-1. American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard Z358.1-1998, Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment, (NOTAL)