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**Safety**

**EMERGENCY SHOWER/EYEWASH UNITS**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This instruction implements and extends the guidance of AFRD 91-3, *Occupational Safety and Health*. This instruction establishes the inspection and maintenance procedures outlined in AFOSH Std 127-32 for all eyewash/shower units and portable emergency eyewash units/bottles and establishes local requirements. This instruction applies to all emergency eyewash/ shower units installed on this installation as well as all portable eyewash stations presently in use and any future units put into service. The provisions contained herein are applicable to all personnel assigned to AFRC organizations at General Mitchell IAP ARS, Milwaukee, WI.

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS**

This instruction was updated for currency in the new format. A (I) indicates revisions from previous edition.

**1. General.** Portable eyewash bottles will only be used in locations approved by the 440 Support Group Bio-environmental Engineering Section and 440 AW Safety Office. Portable eyewash stations are only used as supplemental or temporary eye protection. They are not intended to replace permanently installed eyewashes or showers.

1.1. Procedures:

1.1.1. Permanently installed shower and eyewash units:

1.1.1.1. Permanently installed eyewash units shall be flushed by the supervisor, at a minimum, twice a week for a minimum of five minutes each flushing. These flushes will be accomplished on Monday and Thursday of each week and will be documented using AF Form 2411, **Inspection Documentation**, which will be displayed on each eyewash/shower unit. If a holiday occurs, flushing will be accomplished on the first and last workday of the week.

1.1.1.1.1. Units having local alarms only. Personnel performing the required flushing

must ensure the alarm switch is in the. Activate the eyewash unit for a period of five minutes (minimum), watch to ensure the flow stream is even on both sides and of sufficient flow to drench the operator's eyes should they be needed. Ensure the switch is returned to the ON position after the test. OFF position prior to performing the required flushing. This will disable the local alarm during the test.

1.1.1.1.2. Units having both a local alarm as well as being connected to the 440 AW Fire Department alarm system must follow the following procedures:

1.1.1.1.2.1. First, notify the fire department control center, of your intent to deactivate the alarm system. By deactivating the alarm switch, the fire department will receive an alarm, and without prior notification, they will dispatch a rescue squad to your location.

1.1.1.1.2.2. Second, activate the eyewash unit for a period of five minutes (minimum), watch to ensure the flow stream is even on both sides and of sufficient flow to drench the operators eyes should they be needed.

1.1.1.1.2.3. After the completion of the test, reset the switch/circuit breaker for the alarm.

1.1.1.2. Permanently installed shower units will be activated by the supervisor monthly to verify proper operation as required by AFOSH Standard 127-32, para 4j(1). Before activating the shower unit, refer to the procedures in paragraph [1.1.1.1.1](#) or [1.1.1.2.2](#) above, pertaining to the deactivation of your local or base fire department alarm system. The shower needs to be activated long enough to ensure that there is adequate pressure and volume of water available and all orifices are free of obstructions. Documentation of this test will be annotated on the AF Form 2411 that is displayed on each eyewash/shower unit.

1.1.2. Portable emergency eyewash units/bottles will only be of the commercially purchased type and will be replaced according to the expiration date of the bottle. If the bottle does not have a expiration date, the unit will be replaced three years after the manufactured date.

1.2. Responsibilities. Each supervisor is responsible for ensuring that emergency showers and eyewashes are provided, inspected, tested and maintained according to AFOSH Standard 127-32. Documentation of the twice weekly flushing is the responsibility of the functional manager or the designated representative. If at any time one of the emergency shower/eyewash units malfunctions or are rendered inoperative, the section supervisor will notify the win safety office immediately.

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