

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Division of Labor
Office of Occupational Safety and Health
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

OSH Program Directive Number 76-1910.151/1926.403-1/1

Subject: Interpretation of Article VI, Section 1910.151 (c) and Article VII, Section 1926.403 (a) (6) as applied to Employees Exposed to Battery Installations at Remote Electrical Distribution and Transformer Sites.

Standard: Article VI, Section 1910.151 (c) and Article VII, Section 1926.403 (a) (6), Rules and Regulations, Commissioner of Labor, State of South Carolina.

Cross Reference to Federal Standards: 29 CFR 1910.151 (c) and 29 CFR 1926.403 (a) (6).

Background: Several electric utilities have contacted the Department of Labor desiring that the referenced sections be interpreted as they may apply to installing, repairing and servicing of battery installations at remote field distribution and transformer sites. The electric utilities contend that (1) the majority or all of such sites are not equipped with a permanent water piping system, and (2) the batteries are checked on a long time schedule, with the batteries being replaced only when found to be defective which greatly minimizes the exposure time to employees.

The Department of Labor concurs that providing a permanent water piping system would be burdensome on the employers and that limited exposure exists to the employees. Therefore, permanent flushing facilities at these sites are viewed as impracticable.

Interpretation: Where employers may be exposed to injurious corrosive liquids in batteries at remote electrical distribution and transformer sites, pressurized portable eye wash fountains are acceptable. These pressurized portable eye wash fountains may be stored at the sites or stored on vehicles so long as they are immediately available to employees at such sites.

Effective Date: This instruction is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded by amendment to the Regulation or Program Directive.

William M. Lybrand, Director
May 21, 1976