

OSH INFORMATION MEMORANDUM 80-X-41

TO: All OSH Directors, Supervisors, and Field Personnel

FROM: William M. Lybrand, Director of OSH

SUBJECT: Acceptable Hand-Held Eye/Face Wash Units Under Article VI, Section 1910.151(c)

DATE: July 21, 1980

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the citing of Article VI, Section 1910.151 (c) in regards to hand-held type eye/face wash units.

Background

Questions have been asked concerning the use of hand-held emergency eye/face wash units at battery fill stations where electrolyte acid is handled and at locations where other mild forms of corrosive materials are being used. Article VI, Section 1910.151(c) does not indicate the types of eye washes and showers that are acceptable, or when just an eyewash may be sufficient to comply with the standard.

Interpretation

- a. The hand-held type eye/face wash units are acceptable at locations where electrolyte acid is added to batteries and at other locations where other mild corrosive materials are being used, if the hand-held type unit is permanently connected for immediate use and the nozzle is supported by a bracket. The attachment shows some of the acceptable units that are available.
- b. To be “permanently connected for immediate use”, the end of the hose must be connected to a water supply that is independent of any faucet or other means of cutoff at work benches, tables, sinks, or lavatories. The water pipe or line servicing the eye/face wash unit may have an independent emergency cutoff of its own, but this cutoff must be left open except during repair of the water line servicing the unit.
- c. If strong solutions of corrosive materials are encountered, contact the Director of Occupational Health for technical assistance.

Effective Date

This memorandum is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded.