

Hazard Alert

Eyewash Fittings on Laboratory Taps

Our attention has recently been drawn to a particular type of plumbing fitting intended to allow any laboratory basin to be used as an eyewash station. This fitting, shown below, screws on to the outlet pipe in the same way as the aerator normally fitted to sink and basin outlets.



The Australian standard for laboratory design and construction (AS 2982.1:1997) requires eye wash stations to comply with the American national standard ANSI Z358.1. The unit shown above fails to meet these requirements in several ways, most importantly in that the user is required to keep a lever pulled out to maintain the flow. The fact that

hot water could be delivered inadvertently is also contrary to the standard.

Safety recommendations

These devices are not effective as safety equipment and laboratory supervisors should remove them from service. Where there is an identified need for an eyewash station, e.g. in laboratories where hazardous substances are used, only equipment that complies with the appropriate standards should be installed.

*Occupational Health & Safety Unit
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