

## Key changes to AS/NZS 2243.3 drafted to appear in the new release.

Responses to questions not answered during the webinar.

### 12.52 question:

*Where do the standards with radioisotope work sit within PC2 aquatic facilities?*

Clause 9.3.4, first paragraph, last sentence:

*“Any special precautions that are needed, such as decay of radioisotopes, should be taken.”*

This is like the terrestrial animal section. Other than that, AS/NZS 2243.4 should be consulted.

### 12.58pm question:

*My safety showers need floor wastes' Is this a requirement or a no no...the issue has gotten out of hand / confusion especially in tertiary facilities with PC2 labs. Please advise / clarify*

Response:

It should be noted that a safety shower is not recommended for microbiological spill or accident. A safety shower is recommended for chemical spills. An eye wash, however, is recommended for microbiological accidents because the eye can benefit from irrigation and dilution of contamination.

To the best of my knowledge, there is no requirement to provide floor wastes at locations of safety showers and eye washers. Most operators test these devices using a water capturing device so that floors are not routinely flooded. In a real emergency, a spills kit/clean-up procedure will probably be needed anyway because a floor waste is unlikely to capture all the splashed water from an emergency showering procedure. Most eye washers drain into purpose basins or hand basins so that these are not so much of an issue.

If a floor waste is provided, the following two specific PC2-related issues that need to be considered:

1. The water trap under the floor waste must be charged to prevent it drying out and causing odours from downstream drainage pipes coming into the negative pressure PC2 environment
2. There is the potential for contamination from the laboratory or facility to enter the drains if there is a spillage accident. This is not usually a significant hazard at PC2 level, but it can be necessary to check with authorities in certain situations (an example that comes to mind is work with large volumes of liquid GMOs)

### 1.00pm question:

*Hi I'm new to ABSANZ but not new to biosafety (UK) where can I obtain a copy of the draft?*

The draft is made freely available during the public consultation period but is usually withdrawn from the Standards Australia web site after the public consultation period has closed. You may be able to obtain a copy from friends or colleagues. The next release should be happening in the next few months.

Regards, Neil.

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