

OSHA AED Laws and Requirements

Do you need some guidance on your workplace automated external defibrillator (AED)? The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has helpful recommendations about AEDs to guide the safety and well-being of employees.

Summary

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) does not have specific OSHA standards for AEDs in the workplace, but they recommend their presence in certain industries where the risk of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is higher.

These industries include:

- Construction sites
- Manufacturing facilities
- Health care settings
- Health clubs
- Dental offices

OSHA's guidelines highlight the importance of a written AED program that includes details on AED placement, maintenance, training, and medical oversight.

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OSHA's Guidelines:

- AEDs should be easily accessible in the workplace and placed in locations that are readily available in case of an emergency.
- Employees should be trained in AED usage as part of their first aid and CPR training. Training should be conducted by qualified instructors and updated with refresher courses regularly to learn how adequate first aid supplies can heal wounds from first



aid hazards and how AED training and usage can decrease the risk of sudden cardiac

- Proper maintenance of AEDs is crucial, including regular checks to ensure they are in working order, replacement of expired batteries and pads, and proper documentation of maintenance activities. AEDs should also be registered with the manufacturer to receive updates and recalls.
- Employers should establish a system for regular checks of the AEDs to ensure they are in working order, replacement of expired batteries and pads, and proper documentation of maintenance activities. AEDs should also be registered with the manufacturer to receive updates and recalls.
- Employers should identify a qualified medical professional who can oversee the AED program, review incidents, and provide medical direction to employees during AED use.

It is also important for employers to be aware of state and local regulations that may govern AED use in the workplace, as these regulations may vary. Some states may have specific OSHA standards or provide immunity from liability for employers who have AED programs in place.

Proper implementation and maintenance of AED programs can significantly increase the safety of employees in the workplace. Addressing automated external defibrillators as part of safety and health measures is crucial to achieving this goal. For more detailed information on OSHA's recommendations regarding AEDs in the workplace, employers can refer to the **OSHA's AED Standards page** at <https://www.osha.gov/aed/standards>, or consult resources from organizations such as the American Heart Association for additional guidance on CPR training and general industry best practices. In addition to OSHA guidelines, it is essential for employers to understand the broader role of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in ensuring a safe work environment. AEDs are vital tools for responding to sudden cardiac arrest incidents, and their proper implementation and use can save lives. By incorporating CPR training and AED use into workplace safety programs, employers can prepare their employees to handle emergency situations effectively. It is crucial to address automated external defibrillators as part of comprehensive safety measures, demonstrating a commitment to the health and well-being of employees and visitors alike.

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California requires maintenance of AEDs along with AED placement reporting and regulatory compliance requirements on AED owners. Building owners, school principals, and AED manufacturers and sellers are required to notify tenants where the AED is located and where CPR/AED training can be found. Immunity to the Good Samaritan law is based upon compliance with AED law requirements. California mandates that AEDs are located in health clubs, newly constructed or modified/renovated large occupancy buildings, public swimming pools, schools with interscholastic athletic programs, and specific commuter trains. High schools are also required to have CPR training.

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California Law Key Takeaways

Requirement	Summary
Good Samaritan Law	Any person who, in good faith and not for compensation, renders emergency care or treatment by the use of an AED at the scene of an emergency is not liable for any civil damages resulting from any acts or omissions in rendering the emergency care.
AED Registration	AED registration is required.

Summary

Preventative Maintenance

AEDs should be maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications and tested at least biannually and after use.

AED Notification

When an AED is placed in a building, the building owner shall, at least once a year, notify the tenants as to the location of the AED units and provide information to tenants about who they can contact if they want to voluntarily take AED or CPR training.

Instructions for Use

Instructions for AED use should be posted in 14-point type next to the device.

Health and Fitness Centers

AEDs are required in health studios, fitness centers and public swimming pools.

Occupancy Requirement

AEDs are required in assembly buildings with an occupancy of greater than 300; business buildings with an occupancy of 200 or more; educational buildings with an occupancy of 200 or more; factory buildings with an occupancy of 200 or more; institutional buildings with an occupancy of 200 or more; mercantile buildings with an occupancy of 200 or more; residential buildings with an occupancy of 200 or more, excluding single-family and multifamily dwelling units.

Schools

If the governing board of a school district or the governing body of a charter school requires a course in health education for graduation from high school, then instruction in performing compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) should be included in the course.

Commuter Trains

Certain commuter trains must have AEDs (effective July 2020)

Interscholastic Athletic Programs

Schools with interscholastic athletic programs must have AEDs.