

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

1. PURPOSE

This Directive establishes the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) policy, guidelines, and responsibility for compliance with requirements, for locations purchasing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

2. BACKGROUND

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that approximately 13 percent of all workplace fatalities may occur annually as the result of cardiac arrest. Recent advances in medical technologies have made it possible for portable cardiac defibrillators to be available. AEDs have demonstrated their value, when used by trained personnel, in aiding persons experiencing cardiac arrest with ventricular fibrillation.

3. AUTHORITIES/REFERENCES

- a. Office of Management and Budget Prompt Letter, dated September 18, 2001, Automated External Defibrillators.
- b. Department of Health and Human Services and General Services Administration (GSA) Guidelines for Public Access Defibrillation Programs in Federal Facilities, Federal Register, dated May 23, 2001, Volume 66, Number 100, pages 28495-28511.
- c. Public Health Improvement Act, Public Law 106-505, dated November 13, 2000.

4. POLICY

It is APHIS policy that:

- a. Respective APHIS facility managers/directors will provide for AED placement at their discretion.
- b. The decision to procure AED for use in medical emergencies involving cardiac arrest must be based upon the criteria in the above references.

- c. Facility managers/directors must ensure that all requirements of the authorities are met.

5. GUIDELINES

APHIS facilities or work units contemplating the purchase of AEDs must consider the following criteria before purchasing equipment:

- a. Distance/response time for nearest emergency medical service to reach the location in the event of emergency.
- b. Employees at the work unit at risk for cardiac emergency, or frequency/number of visitors from the general public.
- c. Employees or other occupants readily available and willing to be properly trained to use the AED and/or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and willing to respond to emergencies. Concurrent training in CPR and AED use is mandatory.
- d. Local availability of physician-supervised training. Since AED is a prescription required medical device, program development assistance and approval is required prior to purchase. AED manufacturers, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, local fire and emergency service agencies, and other resources may be available to assist the local official in training and program development.
- e. A written program for AED use as referenced in 5.d. above must be incorporated in the facility Occupant Emergency Plan (OEP). In GSA-controlled space, the OEP is the responsibility of the Designated Official. In APHIS controlled space, the OEP is the responsibility of the senior manager present.

6. RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of each manager/director choosing to procure and use an AED to ensure that the requirements for an effective AED program are fully implemented at the work location.

7. INQUIRIES

- a. Direct inquiries regarding AED program requirements to Employee Services Division, Safety, Health, and Employee Wellness Branch, on 301-734-6116.

- b. This Directive is available on the APHIS Employee Library website at www.aphis.usda.gov/library.

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