Mounting Requirements for Sharps Containers

All architects, planners, interior designers, project managers and facilities engineering personnel involved in the construction or renovation of patient care locations should be aware of the requirements for hanging wall mounted sharps containers.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommends:
1. The user should have a clear unobstructed view of the opening
2. The container should be located within arm’s reach
3. The fixture height should be below the eye level of 95% of adult female workers

Correct installation heights for fixed, wall-mounted sharps disposal containers are 52-56 inches above the floor.

[Diagram showing correct installation height with a text box stating: "An ideal standing installation height for a fixed sharps disposal container is 52 to 56 inches. This height will comfortably accommodate 95% of all adult female workers."]

Click for guidance on sharps box placement
Alcohol Based Hand Rub (ABHR) Dispenser Mounting in Healthcare Occupancy

- Dispensers must be mounted no less than six inches from an adjacent source of ignition (including phone jacks, call switches, Kronos time clocks, and thermostats), as measured from center-line of dispenser to the nearest edge of the cover plate or ignition source.

- Dispensers cannot be mounted above any source of ignition (as defined above). The ‘six inch from center-line’ rule applies infinitely below the valve of the ABHR.

- Recommended height of valve from floor: 54”

- If ABHR dispenser is placed in corridor: corridor must be at least six (6) feet wide, and dispensers must be at least four (4) feet apart from each other.

- Use the approved standard 9oz. canister.

- If ABHR is mounted over carpeting, building must have overhead sprinkler system in place.
Alcohol Based Hand Rub (ABHR) Dispenser Mounting in Business Occupancy

- Dispensers must be mounted no less than six inches from an adjacent source of ignition (including phone jacks, call switches, Kronos time clocks, and thermostats), as measured from center-line of dispenser to the nearest edge of the cover plate or ignition source.

- Dispensers cannot be mounted above any source of ignition (as defined above). The ‘six inch from center-line’ rule applies infinitely below the valve of the ABHR.

- Recommended height of valve from floor: 54”

- If ABHR dispenser placed in corridor, dispensers must be placed at least four (4) feet away from each other.

- Use the approved standard 9oz. canister.