

Mandatory radiation safety requirements for use licence holders

(Use Licence Condition U1638)

Radiation Act 2005

Introduction

The Victorian *Radiation Act 2005* (the Act) has the objective of protecting the health and safety of persons and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) administers this legislation.

The Act seeks to fulfil this objective by establishing a licensing framework to regulate the conduct of radiation practices and the use of radiation sources.

A natural person who uses a radiation source must hold a radiation use licence (unless exempted from that requirement). The use licence holder must comply with every condition of their licence.

Scope

Some use licences issued by the Department include a condition which requires the licence holder to meet the requirements described in this document. Typically the condition which makes reference to this document is applied where there are no applicable Codes of Practice, such as those published by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency.

Mandatory requirements

The use licence holder must:

- comply with the relevant provisions of any radiation management plan which is in place in respect of the radiation practice;
- wear all personal protective equipment provided by the relevant management licence holder;
- wear a personal radiation monitoring device where provided by the relevant management licence holder at all times while using radiation sources;
- refrain from careless or reckless practice, or action likely to result in an unexpected radiation hazard to themselves or others;
- report to the relevant management licence holder any difficulties with working procedures or defects in equipment that may have caused or are likely to cause an unexpected radiation hazard;
- where the licence authorises the use of radioactive material, when not in use, ensure that the source is stored in a shielded and labelled container;
- where the licence authorises the use of unsealed radioactive material, conduct a radiation survey before and after the use of unsealed radioactive material to confirm the absence of contamination. The survey must be conducted using monitoring equipment that is both appropriate for the radiation being monitored and calibrated at regular intervals not exceeding one year;
- use the radiation source in accordance with any relevant written protocol;

- where the licence authorises the use of unsealed radioactive material for the purpose of preparation of radiopharmaceuticals, use appropriately calibrated instruments to ensure the accuracy of the activity of radiopharmaceuticals prepared for administration;
- where the licence authorises the use of a radiation source for the purpose of servicing or maintaining a radiation source, ensure that:
 - all radiation safety equipment is replaced on the radiation source;
 - the radiation source is left in a safe condition following testing; and
 - radiation monitoring equipment is used that is both appropriate for the radiation being monitored and calibrated at regular intervals not exceeding one year;
- ensure that warning signs and barriers are employed around the work area, as far as practicable, to restrict access of persons not directly involved in the work.

Further information

Web: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/radiation>
Email: radiation.safety@dhhs.vic.gov.au
Telephone: 1300 767 469

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 1300 767 469

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne.

© State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services, December 2017.

Version date: 14 December 2017

Document record number: DHD/11/22115