

The Source

News from the Department of Health Radiation Team

August 2021, Edition 4

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Welcome

Welcome to the fourth edition of The Source, a newsletter from the Radiation Team of the Department of Health.

This edition of The Source contains important information about the Code for Radiation Protection in Planned Exposure Situations, Radiation Management Plans, and a mutual recognition scheme, among other things. If you need to contact us about an item in The Source, our contact details are on the last page.

Neil Wain

Team Leader, Radiation

Radiation management plans

We are starting to make changes in preparation for the implementation of the [Code for Radiation Protection in Planned Exposure Situations \(2020\), RPS C-1 \(Rev.1\)](#), published by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency. This Code is currently included in a package of documents expected to be considered by Australian Health Ministers in coming months. If it is endorsed, we plan to make variations to all existing management licences so that the Code will become a general condition of all management licences from 1 January 2023. At least two Australian jurisdictions have already made compliance with the Code a mandatory requirement.

However, in preparation for this Code we will be making a change to the information that we require to be submitted with applications for new management licences, applications to vary an existing management licence, and applications to transfer an existing management licence.

From Monday 6 September 2021, all applications for new management licences, applications to vary an existing management licence, and applications to transfer an existing management licence will need to supply a copy of a radiation management plan describing how the radiation practice will be managed.

This change will bring Victoria more closely in line with at least 5 other Australian jurisdictions who already require this information.

To assist applicants, we have published information on our [website](#) about the requirements for different types of practices.

Automatic mutual recognition

The Australian Government and state and territory governments have agreed to introduce a uniform scheme of automatic mutual recognition (AMR) enabling an individual who is registered or licensed for an occupation in their home state to carry on those activities in other states or territories without further application processes or additional fees.

Victoria, NSW, ACT and the Northern Territory entered the scheme on 1 July 2021. Other jurisdictions are expected to join the scheme over the next year.

However, both ACT and the NSW have given their radiation regulators an additional 12 months to prepare for these arrangements. This means that, at the current time, AMR for Victorian use licence holders, approved testers, and approved assessors is only possible if you are heading to the Northern Territory to work. We do recommend that you check that the other jurisdiction has fully entered the AMR scheme before you start work in the second jurisdiction. We will try to publish updates to these arrangements on our website as we are informed about them.

Under the AMR arrangements, workers from any jurisdiction that has joined the scheme are able to work in Victoria. However, they are required to notify the department using a smartform on our website. We will soon publish a public register of workers who have notified us that they are intending to work in Victoria under the AMR.

For more information, read the information on the [Radiation website](#).

Australasian Health Facility Guidelines – Radiation Oncology

As a part of the Australian Health Facility Guidelines, three new Standard Components have been developed for Radiation Oncology. These components are:

- Linear Accelerator Treatment Room.
- Linear Accelerator Control Room.
- CT Planning Room.

Further information about the Standard Components can be found at:

<https://www.healthfacilityguidelines.com.au/news/content-update-standard-components-oral-health-radiation-oncology-staff-amenities-and-clinical>

Further information about the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines can be found at:

<https://healthfacilityguidelines.com.au/australasian-health-facility-guidelines>

Authorised persons and management licences

If you or your organisation holds a management licence but authorises a person to act on your behalf in terms of lodging applications and making notifications on behalf of the licence holder, you should now [register](#) on our licensing portal to ensure that the management licence will be linked to you when the new management licence module goes 'live'.

We have started the final testing phase and are aiming to go live in the second half of 2021.

The first phase of the new system will allow you to apply for a new management licence, apply to vary an existing licence and submit most of the mandatory notifications to the department such as the acquisition of radiation sources. You will also be able to download a copy of the licence at any time.

There will be a second phase to the project where we will add in things like applications to transfer a management licence and improved functionality for approved assessors and testers. Our website will show the things that can be done on the licensing system and which things still need to be emailed.

For the moment, we will keep the current system where an application for a management licence is accepted without the fee having been paid upfront. We will assess the application and then you will receive an email notification inviting you to pay the fee through the portal.

Australian Radioactive Waste Agency

The Commonwealth Government established the [Australian Radioactive Waste Agency](#) in July 2020. The agency was established to:

- manage Australia's radioactive waste in line with domestic and international regulations
- deliver and operate Australia's National Radioactive Waste Management Facility
- facilitate communication between government, industry, stakeholders, and local communities
- centralise best practice and knowledge about radioactive waste management, including developing a disposal pathway for intermediate level radioactive waste.

We have been requested to facilitate the collection of information from waste holders within Victoria to assist the creation of an Australian Radioactive Waste inventory. It is anticipated that such an inventory will inform decisions relating to the Commonwealth's design and construction of the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility in South Australia. Accordingly, we will soon be contacting management licence holders with radioactive sources seeking information about wastes currently in their possession.

Licensing Portal payment issues

Unfortunately, there has been a delay in processing licensing applications and receiving payments made on or after 30 June 2021 due to a financial system issue outside of our direct control. Our finance team are working hard to fix the problem and we hope by the time you receive this newsletter this has been resolved. The Radiation Team will respond to your applications as soon as possible.

Please note the following:

- **Radiation use licence renewal payment made on or after 30 June but not showing in our system and licence expired or expiring**

Provided you have made full payment for your application to renew your **use licence prior to your licence expiring** you can continue working under your current licence authorisations and conditions. If you have made payment for your renewal application after your licence has expired and within 60 days after the expiry date, it is technically an offence against Section 13 of the Radiation Act 2005 to continue working. However, due to the system issues the department will not take enforcement action for licence holders who are impacted by this issue and choose to continue working.

- **Radiation management licence renewal payment made on or after 30 June but not showing in our system and licence expired or expiring**

Provided you have made full payment for your application to renew your **management licence prior to your licence expiring** you can continue to conduct a radiation practice under your current licence authorisations and conditions. If you have made payment for your renewal application after your licence has expired and within 60 days after the expiry date, it is technically an offence against Section 12 of the Radiation Act 2005 to continue conducting a radiation practice. However, due to the system issues the department will not take enforcement action for licence holders who are impacted by this issue and choose to continue conducting a radiation practice.

Once our system issue has been resolved, you will receive an updated copy of your licence with the renewed expiry date.

Email addresses

You will notice that all our email addresses have changed to '@health.vic.gov.au'. Please amend your records to ensure that we receive the emails that you send to us.

New phone hours

We have extended our phone hours from 9.00am to 1.00pm, Monday to Friday. This allows our Registration and Licensing Team dedicated time in the afternoons to process licence applications and respond to email enquiries.

Contact us

Direct all enquiries to the Radiation Team

Phone: 1300 767 469

Email: radiation.safety@health.vic.gov.au

Website: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/radiation>

Further Information

For further information email radiation.safety@health.vic.gov.au or visit our website at

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/radiation>

Feedback

If you would like to provide any feedback on this newsletter or make any suggestions as to what you would like to see in future newsletters, feel free to contact us by email at radiation.safety@health.vic.gov.au

To receive this document in another format, phone [insert phone number](#), using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or [email the Radiation Team](#) <radiation.safety@health.vic.gov.au >.

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