

Requirements for Licensing

Sale of Commercial/Industrial Ionisation Chamber Smoke Detectors

Introduction

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to explain the requirements of the Radiation Act 2005 and the Radiation Regulations 2007 that apply to the sale of Ionisation Chamber Smoke Detectors (ICSD) in Victoria.

Complete domestic smoke detectors containing less than 40 kBq of Am-241 and no other radioactive substance are excluded from the requirements of the Act and Regulations.

In effect all ICSDs complying with the Australian Standard 3786:1993 are exempt from Regulation.

The following information applies to all other forms of ICSDs other than those specified above .

Approval of ICSDs

Formal approval of each ICSD model must be obtained from the Department of Human Services, Radiation Safety Section prior to sale.

The Radiation Safety Section assesses the ICSD to ensure that it meets the requirements of the relevant Australian Standard. These Standards include:

AS 1603.2:1997 – Automatic fire detection and alarm systems – Point type smoke detectors.

AS 1603.8:1996 – Automatic fire detection and alarm systems – Multi-point aspirated smoke detectors.

AS 12239:2004 – Fire detection and alarm system – Smoke alarms.

Sale of ICSDs

Under the *Radiation Act 2005*, a person or company may not sell an ICSD (which contains a sealed radioactive source) unless a management licence is held for that purpose and the ICSD model to be sold has been approved by the Radiation Safety Section. This licence is normally issued to the wholesaler or distributor of the ICSD being sold. Individual retail outlets are not normally licensed.

Conditions of Management Licence to Sell ICSDs

The conditions placed on the management licence stipulate that the ICSD must meet the following requirements:

- The radioactive material is in the form of a sealed source of americium-241 (Am-241), the location of which is clearly marked.
- The ICSD is labelled with the statement '*Caution Radioactive Material*' including the radiation warning (trefoil) symbol and the type and activity of the radionuclide.
- The ICSD is labelled with a statement that when the detector is no longer wanted it shall be disposed of by returning it to the supplier or to the State Health Department.
- Each ICSD is labelled with the warning '*Contains radioactive material – Must not be dismantled by unqualified persons*'.

Application for Licence

To apply for a licence to sell ICSDs, applicants must complete the appropriate application form and submit to the Radiation Safety Section for inspection along with a sample of the ICSD model to be sold.

Application forms can be obtained from the Radiation Safety Section website.

Phone: 1300 767 469
Fax: 1300 769 274
email: radiation.safety@dhs.vic.gov.au

Importation of ICSDs

Importers should be aware that the importation of ICSDs is subject to customs regulations due to the small quantity of radioactive material contained in each unit. A Customs Prohibited Import Release Form (Non-medical Radioisotopes) must be lodged for each shipment of ICSDs brought into the country. Further details about these requirements may be sought from:

Australian Radiation Protection and
Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA)
P. O. Box 655
MIRANDA NSW 1490
Telephone: (02) 9541 8333
email: info@arpansa.gov.au
web site: www.arpansa.gov.au

Disposal of ICSDs

ICSDs (other than complete domestic detectors containing less than 40 kBq of Am-241) must not be disposed of with normal refuse.

Licensed suppliers of ICSDs must have arrangements in place to accept return of ICSDs when no longer required by the end user.

The ICSD should be marked with *supplier return details* followed by the name and address of the supplier for return purposes.

Further Information

Queries on the requirements of the Regulations can be referred to:

Radiation Safety Section
Department of Human Services
GPO Box 4057
Melbourne Victoria 3001