

Radiation Safety Officer

Typical Duties

Management Licensees are encouraged to employ a Radiation Safety Officer to co-ordinate management of radiation safety issues. A Radiation Safety Officer so appointed will typically have the following duties. Licence conditions or Codes of Practice pertaining to the particular activity may specify particular tasks and responsibilities.

- Advise the management on matters relating to radiation safety including:
 - (a) Radiation monitoring programs.
 - (b) Condition of and need for radiation monitoring and protective equipment.
 - (c) Action to be taken to reduce the radiation exposure of employees or members of the public to a level that is both below the radiation protection limits prescribed in Schedule 2 of the *Radiation Regulations 2007* and as low as reasonably achievable, social and economic factors being taken into account.
 - (d) Action to be taken in the event of an emergency or accidental exposure.
- Prepare safe working procedures with respect to radiation protection for use in a routine operation or in an emergency or accidental exposure.
- Be responsible for the initial and continued instruction of employees in radiation hazards, safe working procedures to ensure radiation protection, the proper use of radiation monitoring and protective equipment, and measures to limit radiation exposure.
- Ensure that appropriate radiation protection monitoring surveys are carried out as required.
- Set up or cause to be implemented personal monitoring systems for the determination of effective doses for any employee or class of employees, as required.
- Assess the accumulated effective dose and committed effective dose of any employee or class of employees. (The **Committed Effective Dose, $E(\tau)$** is the time integral of the effective dose rate where τ is the integration time (in years) following an intake to the body of a radioactive material and is usually taken to be 50 years for adults and from intake to age 70 years for children unless otherwise specified.)
- Maintain or cause to be maintained, sufficient radiation monitoring and radiation protection equipment and ensure that that equipment is calibrated and in a ready and working condition.
- Investigate any defect in an area or item of equipment that may increase the exposure of a person to radiation and recommend how to correct that defect.
- Investigate sources of radiation exposure, the radiation protection equipment and working procedures and recommend any change that would reduce the exposure

of employees or members of the public to a level that is both below the radiation protection limits prescribed in Schedule 2 of the *Radiation Regulations 2007* and as low as reasonably achievable, social and economic factors being taken into account.

- Observe whether the prescribed standards for the discharge of any radioactive waste are complied with before and during a discharge.
- Ensure that prescribed radiation signs are maintained in good condition and located in places in which they will be readily seen.
- Monitor transport containers and ensure that they comply with the *Code of Practice for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (2001)* or later as amended.
- Maintain detailed records on all the above matters.

Further Information

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