

# X-ray Equipment Disposal

If the equipment cannot be returned to the manufacturer or supplier, several components of X-ray equipment require consideration prior to disposal:

- *X-ray tube* oil may contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). A determination regarding the presence of PCB in the X-ray tube oil must be made prior to disposal. The disposal of oil becomes a regulated activity if the concentration of PCB is above a certain level. Some X-ray tubes made before 1979 contain PCBs in cooling oil.
- *Transformers* in some X-ray equipment may contain PCB dielectric oil. A determination regarding the presence of PCB in the transformer must be made prior to disposal. The disposal of oil becomes a regulated activity if the concentration of PCB is above a certain level.
- *Housings* are generally made of lead or are cast steel with a lead lining. A scrap metal dealer may recycle the housing. A prescribed waste determination of the lead contained in the housing must be performed if disposal of the housing is the preferred option.
- X-ray tubes with beryllium windows will require a prescribed waste determination prior to disposal.

Laboratories able to determine the presence of PCBs in oil can be found at the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) website using the following link:

<http://www.nata.asn.au/go/facilities-andamp-labs>

Advice regarding disposal of lead and beryllium can be found at the Environmental Protection Agency website using the following link:

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/>

The following companies may be able to assist with acquisition or disposal of your X-ray unit:

- Sinclair X-ray Inspection Services: Telephone – (03) 9741 0288
- Miatech Pty. Ltd.: Telephone – (03) 9794 5366

Equipment capable of producing ionising radiation must be rendered inoperable before disposal. The equipment is in an inoperable condition when it would not be practicable for a person to restore the unit to a condition where it is capable of producing radiation. The X-ray unit can be disabled by the following methods:

- Removing the head from the unit and cutting the electric cord.
- Destroying vital components in the X-ray generator.

Radiation signs such as trefoils must also be removed or obscured prior to disposal.

The X-ray tube is under vacuum and injury may occur if the tube is punctured or broken. Disposal of many X-ray units can take place at a local or municipal landfill but you should contact the handler at the landfill to verify they will accept the unit.

**You must notify the Department of Human Services of any change regarding your Management Licence.** Please complete the *Notification of disposal of X-ray units* form and submit to the Department of Human Services at the address indicated on the form. The *Notification of disposal of X-ray units* form can be found at the following link:  
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/radiation/licensing/forms.htm>