

Mandatory Requirements for Approved Assessors

Radiation Act 2005

Introduction

The Victorian *Radiation Act 2005* (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 & 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. This framework also includes the application of conditions on a licence with which a licence holder must comply.

Part 5A of the Act prescribes assessing requirements for a security plan or transport security plan in accordance with a set of standards.

Under Section 67D of the Act, management licence holders who possess high consequence sealed sources must have approved security plans. Under Section 67J of the Act, it is an offence for a management licence holder to transport a high consequence sealed source without a transport security plan.

A high consequence sealed source is a sealed source that has an activity ratio of greater than or equal to 1. The activity ratio of greater than or equal to 1 will determine the category of the sealed source. A high consequence group of sealed sources is two or more sealed sources that when kept at the same place and secured in the same way at that place, or when transported in the same vehicle, have an aggregate activity ratio of greater than or equal to one. The activity ratio of greater than or equal to 1 will determine the category of the high consequence group of sealed sources.

The activity ratio for a sealed source is determined in accordance with the formula – A / D where –

A is the activity of the sealed source's prescribed radionuclide in gigabecquerel units: and
D is the value specified in the Radiation Regulations 2017.

An approved assessor must assess a security plan or a transport security plan against the applicable standards published in the Victoria Government Gazette and available on the department's website at:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/radiation/radiation-regulatory-framework/radiation-laws/radiation-act-2005>

A security compliance certificate can only be issued by a person approved by the Secretary. These persons are called 'Approved Assessors'. With their consent, the Department publishes the names of approved assessors on the following website:

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

Scope

This publication is intended for approved assessors. The authority is subject to the limitations and conditions specified in this document.

The role of an Approved Assessor

The role of an approved assessor as defined by Section 36A of the Act is to:

- assess a security plan or transport security plan to determine whether—
 - (i) the plan meets the requirements set out in Section 67C or 67H of the Act (as the case requires); and
 - (ii) the plan meets the standards specified by the Secretary under Section 67N of the Act; and
- issue security compliance certificates in respect of security plans if the relevant plans meet the specified standards.

Conditions of Assessor's Approval

Condition 1: Certificate of Compliance

If, following the assessment of a security plan or transport security plan, the plan meets the requirements of every applicable item contained in the security standard, then the Approved Assessor must issue a certificate of compliance in respect of that plan to the management licence holder (or the person who requested the assessment) within 7 days from the date of the assessment.

The certificate of compliance must, as a minimum, contain the following information:

Security plan

1. Name of approved assessor.
2. Assessor's approval number as issued by the Department.
3. The date that the certificate was issued.
4. Department of Health & Human Services licence number.

Transport security plan

1. Name of approved assessor.
2. Assessor's approval number as issued by the Department.
3. The date that the certificate was issued.
4. Department of Health & Human Services licence number.

Condition 2: Approved assessors must not issue a certificate of compliance for a possessed high consequence sealed source or high consequence group of sealed sources if a licence does not exist.

The approved assessor must not issue a certificate of compliance in respect of a possessed high consequence sealed source or high consequence group of sealed sources unless:

1. There is a management licence that is in force and allows the possession of the high consequence sealed source or high consequence group of sealed sources; and
2. The management licence lists the relevant details of the high consequence sealed source or high consequence group of sealed sources.

Condition 3: Approved assessors must provide certificate information to the Department.

Under Section 67L of the Radiation Act 2005 an approved assessor must provide to the Secretary the information contained in a certificate of compliance – (a) in writing; and (b) within 7 days after issuing the certificate. This information can be emailed to radiation.safety@dhhs.vic.gov.au

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 1300 767 469, or email radiation.safety@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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

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