



RADIATION SAFETY ACT

Responsibilities of the Radiation Safety Officer Fact Sheet

Regulation 19(3) of the Radiation Safety (General) Regulations provides the responsibilities that are directly relevant to the **radiation safety officer** (RSO). In particular, your attention is drawn to the items outlined in this fact sheet. Complete sets of legislation are available from the State Law Publisher, www.slp.wa.gov.au.

The RSO must be appointed in writing by the registrant; that is, the 'owner' of the premises where prescribed x-ray equipment, radioactive substances or electronic products (lasers, transilluminators and/or sun-tanning units) are used. The appointment requires prior approval of the Radiological Council. The registrant's responsibilities, which include providing the RSO with appropriate information and direction, are given in the fact sheet, "Responsibilities of the Registrant".

A person nominated to be RSO may be required to pass an examination in radiation safety conducted by or on behalf of the Council in accordance with the Radiation Safety (Qualifications) Regulations 1980 or possess an approved qualification.

Although the regulations prescribe certain duties for the RSO, liability for failing to comply with the Act and the regulations remains with the registrant. However, the RSO who has been properly instructed by the registrant yet fails to carry out the prescribed duties may commit an offence.

Regulation 19(3)

If you are an appointed Radiation Safety Officer, you are required to –

- **prepare working rules** for the safe use and operation of prescribed radioactive substances, x-ray equipment and electronic products if required by the Council, the regulations, or by a condition, restriction or limitation imposed on the registration;
- **ensure that** no radioactive substances are used or stored and no x-ray equipment or prescribed electronic products are installed unless **the Council has approved plans for the premises** and the premises conform to those plans;
- ensure that all shielding, safety devices, protective equipment, radiation monitoring and radiation surveying devices required by the regulations or by a condition, restriction or limitation are installed or available, **regularly tested and serviced, and repaired and replaced when necessary**;

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- make recommendations to the registrant on the need or otherwise for **the medical examination of radiation workers**;
- **maintain all records** required by the Act or the regulations;
- ensure that any **conditions, restrictions or limitations** imposed on the registration (and of which the radiation safety officer has been informed) are complied with;
- notify the registrant of any **suspected or known contravention** of the regulations or of any condition, restriction or limitation imposed on the registration as soon as practicable after becoming aware of it;
- if any person is unnecessarily exposed to radiation, **evaluate the radiation dose** received in accordance with any directions given by the Council;
- **notify the registrant** of an exposure to any person (other than to a patient for medical purposes) which exceeds the limits prescribed in regulation 15;
- notify the registrant of any **abnormal or unplanned radiation exposure** (refer to fact sheet, "Reporting Abnormal or Unplanned Exposures").

Legislation

Complete sets of the Act and Regulations are available from the State Law Publisher, www.slp.wa.gov.au.

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