

Radiation Protection Act 2005
Radiation Protection Regulations 2006

INFORMATION SHEET:

INFORMATION FOR PERSONS SEEKING ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATES

This information can also be accessed at http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/peh/radiation_protection

Introduction

The *Radiation Protection Act 2005* requires that each radiation source has a certificate of compliance before they may be used or continue to be used.

Places where radiation sources are used and/or stored also require a certificate of compliance.

An appropriately accredited person may issue a certificate of compliance for a radiation source or for a place in which a radiation source is used and/or stored. Additionally, a person authorised by a licence to manufacture or sell a (class of) radiation source(s) may issue a certificate of compliance for each new radiation source.

The need for certificates of compliance

The *Radiation Protection Act 2005* requires that radiation sources comply with relevant radiation protection standards before they can be authorised to be used. Thus, a licence holder or an applicant for a licence to use a radiation apparatus or a sealed source must obtain a certificate of compliance for that radiation source, to demonstrate that the source complies or continues to comply with the relevant requirements. Once the certificate of compliance has been obtained, the radiation source may be authorised for (continued) use.

The *Radiation Protection Act 2005* further requires that places where radiation sources are used and/or stored must be shown to comply with relevant radiation protection standards. This ensures that members of the public are not exposed to harmful levels of radiation outside these places. Thus, the occupier of a place where radiation sources are to be used and/or stored requires a certificate of compliance to demonstrate that the place meets the relevant requirements. Once the place has a certificate of compliance, the place can be registered and the radiation source can then be used and/or stored in that place.

Who can issue certificates of compliance

Persons who hold an appropriate accreditation certificate may issue a certificate of compliance for a radiation source or for a place in which a radiation source is used and/or stored. In addition to a person holding a certificate of accreditation, a person who is authorised by a licence to manufacture or sell a (class of) radiation source may issue a certificate of compliance for a NEW radiation source.

The *Radiation Protection Act 2005* also allows for authorised officers appointed under that Act to issue certificates of compliance under specified circumstances.

Who can test a radiation source

Only a person who holds a certificate of accreditation authorising that person to test radiation sources of that particular class may test a source in order to determine whether a certificate of compliance can be issued.

Assessment of applicants

In deciding whether an applicant is suitable to hold an accreditation certificate, the Director of Public Health must consider whether the applicant has adequate training in radiation protection measures; has experience and qualifications relevant to the dealings with the radiation source to be conducted by the person while carrying out the necessary tests; is licensed or registered with, or has an authority issued by, an appropriate board recognised in Tasmania that is relevant to the person's profession and role in the issue of certificates of compliance; has been convicted of an offence that the Director of Public Health considers relevant, whether in Tasmania or elsewhere; or has had any licence, registration, accreditation or other authorisation relating to any dealing with a radiation source revoked, whether in Tasmania or elsewhere.

In particular, the Director of Public Health will assess the applicant's knowledge and understanding of the following areas:

- Knowledge of the biological effects of ionising radiation, the principles of radiation protection and personal radiation monitoring.
- Knowledge of the properties of radiation sources, and the use and operation of radiation apparatus and apparatus utilising sealed sources.
- Understanding of how radiation is measured and monitored and how to interpret radiation measurements
- Understanding of how radiation monitoring equipment is calibrated and checked for consistency.
- Knowledge and understanding of the requirements under the *Radiation Protection Act 2005*, relevant radiation safety standards and relevant codes of practice made under that Act.
- Ability to interpret and apply applicable codes of practice and standards.

Applicants for certificates of accreditation will need to demonstrate that they are able to assess sources or places against the requirements specified in the relevant "Certificate of Compliance: Standard for ...". These standards are available from www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/peh/radiation_protection.

The applicant must provide evidence (eg. provision of worksheets, reports) that he or she has assessed the radiation sources or places against the relevant radiation safety standard, or similar, within the twelve months prior to the application being submitted.

The applicant must also participate in an interview, in person or by phone, to satisfy the Director of Public Health of their knowledge and skills.

Radiation Safety Courses

The Radiation Protection Unit may be able to provide advice on appropriate radiation safety courses for persons to undertake when seeking an accreditation certificate allowing them to certify certain radiation sources.

Persons who have already completed such a course should submit full details of the course for consideration by the Director of Public Health.

How to Apply

A written application for an accreditation certificate must be made to the Director of Public Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania through the Radiation Protection Unit.

Application forms are available from the Radiation Protection Unit by phoning (03) 6222 7256 or may be downloaded from http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/peh/radiation_protection.

Certificates of accreditation may be sought for a period of one, two or three years. Once granted, certificates remain current for the term specified on the certificate and are subject to all requirements of the legislation and any additional conditions attached to the certificate. Applications for renewal of certificates of accreditation must be made prior to the expiry of the current certificate.

Categories of radiation sources requiring certificates of compliance

Ionising radiation apparatus

- Fixed Radiography
- Mobile Radiography
- Fixed Radioscopy
- Mobile Radioscopy
- Mobile Capacitor Discharge
- Mammography
- Computed Tomography
- Hybrid Computed Tomography
- Cone Beam Volume Computed Tomography
- Intra Oral (includes portable apparatus)
- Orthopantomograph (includes panoramic & cephalometric radiography)
- Bone Mineral Densitometer
- X-ray Veterinary
- X-ray Veterinary Dental
- Simulator
- Linear Accelerator
- Superficial X-ray
- X-ray Analysis
- Industrial Radiography
- Gauge
- Enclosed Special
- On Stream Analysis
- Mobile security i.e. portable, battery-powered X-ray units for security purposes
- Baggage i.e. cabinet X-ray equipment for the purpose of examining letters, packages or baggage

Non-ionising radiation apparatus

- Class 3B laser
- Class 4 laser
- IPL
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging/NMR

Radioactive Material

- Applicator
- HDR Brachytherapy after loader
- LDR Brachytherapy seeds applicator
- Belt Mineral Analyser
- Bench Top Analyser
- Gamma Irradiator
- Mobile Bore Hole Logging
- Mobile Industrial Radiography
- Mobile Moisture Profiler
- Mobile Soil Density & Moisture Gauge
- On Stream Analysis Probe
- Static Eliminator
- Static Radiation Gauge (Beta Gauge, Density Gauge or Level Gauge)
- Portable Mass Gauge
- Gas chromatograph Ni-63 source

Categories of places requiring certificates of registration

- Nuclear medicine facility
- Low-level laboratory
- Store for radioactive materials

and the places in which the above radiation sources are used and/or stored other than places housing the following radiation sources, which have been exempted from this requirement:

Sealed source: Chemical Analysis Unit

Sealed source: Gas chromatograph containing Ni-63 source

X-ray: Baggage i.e. cabinet x-ray equipment for the purpose of examining letters, packages or baggage

X-ray: Mobile security i.e. portable, battery-powered x-ray units for security purposes

Duration of certificates of compliance

For radiation sources, the following compliance-testing intervals apply:

Ionising radiation apparatus

1. **Once a year**
 - (a) mammography unit
2. **Once every two years**
 - (a) ionising radiation apparatus used for medical diagnosis, other than a mammography unit, bone densitometry unit or ionising radiation apparatus used for dentistry;
 - (b) ionising radiation apparatus used for medical therapy;
 - (c) ionising radiation apparatus used for industrial radiography
 - (d) ionising radiation apparatus used for chiropractic radiography
3. **Once every four years**
 - (a) bone densitometry unit;
 - (b) ionising radiation apparatus used for dentistry;
 - (c) an ionising radiation apparatus used for a purpose other than medical diagnosis, medical therapy or industrial radiography

Non-ionising Apparatus

1. **Once every 4 years**
 - (a) any non-ionising radiation apparatus (Class 3B or 4 laser, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Intense Pulsed Light source for cosmetic use).

Sealed Source Apparatus

1. **Once a year**
 - (a) sealed sources

Radiation Places

For places, the following applies:

A compliance-testing interval may be specified in the Certificate of Registration for the place. However, in general, a certificate of compliance will be required when the place is first established and then only if a change is to be made e.g. to the type of radiation source or if the x-ray workload is to increase or the place is to be renovated. Some places, where for example unsealed radioactive materials are to be used, may require more frequent assessment.

The process for assessment of your application

Complete and return the appropriate form(s) for an application for accreditation to issue certificates of compliance for radiation sources or places, with all relevant information attached. Incomplete applications cannot be assessed and will be returned to you, or further information will be requested.

Do NOT send any payment with the application. You will be sent an invoice, which must be paid in order for your application to be processed.

A Radiation Protection officer will contact you to arrange a mutually suitable time for you to participate in an interview which will generally take place within 42 days of receipt of your completed application, including all relevant information.

The Director of Public Health will generally make a decision within 90 days from receipt of all relevant information and payment of the required fee. If your application is successful, a certificate of accreditation will

be issued to you. You are NOT authorised to test any radiation source or to issue any certificate of compliance until you have received your certificate of accreditation.

If your application is not successful, your application fee will be refunded.

Enquiries

For further information, please contact an officer at the Radiation Protection Unit on (03) 6222 7256 or, alternatively, via email at radiation.protection@dhhs.tas.gov.au