
RADIATION REVIEW



UW - Madison Safety Department
262-8769

Radiation Safety Program
June 1991

P-32 DECON

A bottle of vinegar is a useful item to have in your lab for minor decontamination tasks. The dilute acetic acid it contains works very well for P-32 decontamination as well as contamination by other nuclides. It can be used on the skin or on external surfaces.

For skin decontamination, sprinkle or pour the vinegar on the affected area. Flood the area with water and monitor. If contamination persists, reapply the vinegar and pat it or rub it gently off with a soft towel. **Take care not to abrade the skin!** If contamination persists or the activity of the spilled material was in quantities greater than those in Appendix V of the University Radiation Safety Regulations, contact a Health Physicist.

For external surfaces, sprinkle or pour vinegar on the affected area, let it sit for several minutes, then wipe the area with a towel. Remember to dispose of contaminated cleaning supplies according to University guidelines for radioactive waste.

EQUIPMENT REPAIR

Before you have laboratory equipment that is used with radioactive materials serviced or repaired by Physical Plant or other personnel, please follow these guidelines:

If the equipment is to be taken from the lab and repaired at a shop:

- 1) Remove all radioactivity
- 2) Wash the equipment thoroughly
- 3) Survey the equipment
- 4) Rewash and resurvey as necessary
- 5) Remove or deface all "Caution Radioactive Material" signs
- 6) Send a copy of the survey to the Safety Department

For equipment repair or service in rooms posted with "Caution Radioactive Materials" Signs:

- 1) Do a complete survey of the room
- 2) Decontaminate and resurvey as needed
- 3) Send a copy of the survey to the Safety Department
- 4) Advise the service people of potential hazards other than radiological that might exist in the area
- 5) If you suspect internal contamination of equipment that is to be dismantled, call the Safety Department

NRC INSPECTION

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has been selected to be the subject of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission team inspection the week of June 17 - June 21, 1991. Other regulatory agencies including the EPA and FDA will be invited to attend. This will be a very rigorous inspection, covering most if not all aspects of the Radiation Safety Program, including laboratory visits. Please be cooperative if you encounter these people.

RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL INVENTORIES

Nuclear Regulatory Commission accountability requirements direct us to receive a radionuclide inventory from each authorized user at a minimum frequency of once per year to assure that Central Ordering Receiving and Distribution (CORD) computer balances match your actual physical inventory. Failure to return inventories given you by Radiation Safety Technicians when they inspect your work areas puts us in violation of conditions in our Broadscope License. This could have very unpleasant consequences. For this reason we ask that when you are given a "User Summary Form" you do a careful physical inventory of your radioactive materials, fill out the form, sign it and return it within five working days. Thank you.

BELOW REGULATORY CONCERN (BRC) & ASSEMBLY BILL 210

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a policy statement on July 3, 1990 regarding BRC. The policy is used by the NRC in responding to requests from NRC licensed facilities for rulemaking to exempt from some or all regulatory controls certain practices involving very low-level radioactive materials. Meaning a BRC material can be disposed of in a landfill, or incinerated without regard to radioactivity for example.

The policy statement establishes an individual dose of 1 mrem per year from a single source and 10 mrems per year from multiple sources. Meaning a radioactive

material rendered as a BRC may give an individual up to 10 mrems per year. Background radiation is about 130 mrems per year.

On March 5, 1991 Representative Spencer Black introduced AB-210 to prevent the disposal to landfills and incineration of low level radioactive waste **generated in the production of nuclear power**, including waste rendered by the NRC as a BRC waste.

The Bill was amended to include low level radioactive waste generated by all radioactive waste generators. The Amended Bill passed the Assembly floor, and it is at the Senate.

The amended Bill has a big impact on the University. To be able to analyze and effectively manage the solid radioactive waste generated on the Madison campus, the solid waste is held for decay and then incinerated. This method is approved and is regulated by the NRC.

If the amended Bill becomes law it may halt research with radioactive materials on the UW campus and limit FDA approved clinical procedures at the Nuclear Medicine Department at the University Health/CSC.

The University is lobbying to reword the amended Bill at the Senate so that all types of research and approved clinical procedures are available on the UW campus.

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