



RADIATION REVIEW



UW - Madison Safety Department
262-8769

Radiation Safety Program
September 1991

SOMETHING NEW FOR RADIATION REVIEW

By Nuclear Regulatory Commission request, we would like to use this newsletter as part of our Supplementary Training Program. To this end, please have all Radiation Workers in your lab read each newsletter, initial and date it when they're done. Save the Radiation Reviews in the three ring binder where you keep other UW-Radiation Safety information. Thank you.

RADIATION SAFETY REGULATIONS

When an authorized user is going to be absent for more than 30 days, authorization to possess and use radionuclides MUST be transferred to another authorized user. To transfer your authorization, find another authorized user who is willing to substitute for you. The substitute should have labs in the same building and use similar radio-nuclides. Then:

1. Call UW-Safety and ask for form 99T, "Temporary Transfer of Authorization."
2. Complete Form 99T and return to the Safety Department.
3. The authorized and substitute user will be notified in writing of the URSC approval.

HEALTH PHYSICS CORNER

Geiger Mueller Counters (GM):

Used to monitor for radionuclides that emit gamma and high energy betas. NOT useful for alpha monitoring, low energy beta emitters i.e. H-3, or for small amounts of low energy gamma emitters < 0.1 :Ci I-125.

Low Energy Gamma Probes (Scintillation Detectors):

Useful to monitor for radionuclides that emit low energy gammas (< 100 KeV). Not useful for alpha monitoring and beta emitters, e.g H-3, C-14, Ni-63. Can detect radionuclides that emit high energy beta (P-32) or gammas (Cs-137). Ideal for I-125 monitoring. On average, when monitoring I-125 using portable LEG meters, 1×10^6 cpm corresponds to about 1 mR/hr.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE

Effective July 1, 1991 the Safety Department became a unit of the Division of Facilities Planning and Management, headed by Assistant Vice-Chancellor Duane Hickling. The new Division includes Safety, Physical Plant, Planning and Construction and Space Management. We are glad to be working with our new colleagues.

CONTAMINATION ACTION LEVEL

According to University Radiation Safety Regulations, the maximum con- tamination level for which you must take action is 450 net counts per minute. This is different than the old level of ten times background. Please note this change. Of course we encourage you to keep all radiation levels as far below 450 cpm as possible.

LIQUID SCINTILLATION COUNTING SEMINAR

Ken Borowski, Ph.D. and Yutaka Kobayashi, Ph.D. will present a seminar called Basic Scintillation Counting, Radioactivity Flow Detection for HPLC sponsored by UW-Radiation Safety, Radiomatic Instruments, and Packard Instrument Company on September 17, 1991 at Union South. Please see Today in the Union for the location.

WASTE WATCHERS

Following are some of the most common problems we encounter when managing radioactive waste at the University. A more complete set of guidelines can be found in Section XIX of the University Radiation Safety Regulations.

- Please keep the total weight per box under 50 lbs. This is important to maintain the integrity of cartons while they're being transported and to protect the safety of workers handling them.
- Place vials upright in trays when possible and package in full single cases only if you can stay within the 50 lb. weight limit.

If you get bulk packaged mini-vials in double cases, please split the cases for disposal.

- Please don't pack liquid waste in any bottle that contained a consumable item. Wine, juice, or soda bottles are not acceptable containers for radioactive waste.

STAFF CHANGES

One of our Health Physicists, Cindy Schulzetenberg, has left her full-time position with the Radiation Safety Program. To our good fortune, Cindy has agreed to work with us part-time while she attends school. We welcome two new Health Physicists to our staff, Dave Farnsworth and Ralph North. New area assignments will be:

Abdul BenZikri	- Training, licensing, shipping
Leola DeKock	- Medical Program, shipping, radio-iodine monitoring
Dave Farnsworth	- Dosimetry
Arne Jansen	- Machine produced ionizing radiation, field stations
Ralph North	- Radioactive Waste
Larry Veleke	- CORD

If you have questions in any of these areas please call 262-8769 and ask for the appropriate person.