



Safety Services

2. Legislation & Codes of Practice

Work with ionising radiations is now covered by four main pieces of legislation. These are as follows:

(a) Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 - Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999
<http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/si/si1999/19993232.htm>;

(b) Environmental Permitting Regulations SI 2010 No.675 (EPR2010)
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/pdf/uksi_20100675_en.pdf

(c) Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations SI 2009 No.1348 (CDG2009)
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/pdf/uksi_20091348_en.pdf ; and

(d) Nuclear Safeguards Act 2000
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/ukpga_20000005_en_1

The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act introduced a new concept into safety legislation, in that for the first time, employees as well as the employer have responsibilities to themselves and to others who may be affected, not only by the work they perform, but also by any failure to perform their duties. The detailed requirements for work with ionising radiations under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act are provided by the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99) and the Approved Code of Practice for the protection of persons against ionising radiations arising from any work activity. A short guide to IRR99 can be found at – [‘Guide to IRR99’](#).

The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010 (EPR2010) brought together a series of regulations governing different environmental regimes and largely replaced the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 and the HASS Regulations 2005. The University now holds permits under EPR2010 to carry out work with sealed and unsealed sources in the Medical School and the Western Bank areas. The permits detail the radioisotopes which are allowed to be used and the amounts which can be held in store at any one time. They also detail how radioactive waste can be disposed, placing limits on the amounts which can be disposed of at any one time, and also specifying the permitted means of disposal.

All departments using radioisotopes should have notices prominently displayed within their departments, indicating the various limits and conditions of the Permits as they affect them. It is important that all departments keep within the limits of their allocation of the

EA Permits, but if necessary, these can be revised, with the help of Safety Services.

EPR2010 now also implements EU Council Directive 2003/122/Euratom covering High Activity Sealed Radioactive Sources and Orphan Sources (HASS). HASS sources are subject to strict control from the time they are purchased until the time of their final disposal. Detailed guidance on the application of this aspect of the regulations and other matters relating to the use of radioactive materials is available from the Environment Agency Website – <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/39773.aspx>

Before people purchase any sealed source they must check with Safety Services to see if the source is already covered by an existing permit. They also need to budget for the final disposal of the source at the time of purchase.

The Carriage of Dangerous Goods etc Regulations (CDG2009) covers all types of dangerous goods transport including radioactive materials. They implement the European ADR for the transport of dangerous goods and the Transport Regulations drawn up by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Together with the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999, they govern the movement and transport of radioactive materials. More information on this subject can be found in the section on ['Transport and Movement'](#).

The Nuclear Safeguards Act 2000 implemented previous voluntary agreements to restrict and control the spread of knowledge related to the nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear weapons technology. The University is required to report annually to the HSE Safeguards Office on any relevant research activities carried out in collaboration with a non-nuclear weapon state. Safety Services will contact departments to co-ordinate the university's response to HSE.

Copies of the main regulations, where appropriate, are held by Departmental Radiation Protection Supervisors, and should be available for viewing at any reasonable time. These local rules are based upon all current regulations and provide the radiation worker with guidance which should enable him to observe them.

The main enforcement agencies - The Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency will, from time to time, inspect work with ionising radiations at the University to ensure that the Regulations are complied with. They have the power to enter premises unannounced, to withdraw permits or issue improvement or prohibition notices if they find an unsatisfactory situation, and to prosecute with possible fines of up to £20,000 per offence.