

Radiation Guide

The radiation protection principle to limit unnecessary exposure to radiation is regulated in the *Radiation Protection Act 2006* in the ACT. There are two types of applications for radiation, a licence or a registration. Certificates are issued by the ACT Radiation Council annually and the applicant is required to reapply each year. The Radiation Council meets every six weeks.

Registration

Radiation sources are required to be registered in the ACT. The owner of the radiation source needs to complete and submit an application form to the ACT Radiation Council.

The categories of sources as listed in the ARPANSA publication - National Directory for Radiation Protection (RPS6) are:

- Sealed and unsealed sources of radioactive materials, sealed source apparatus, radiation apparatus, non-ionizing radiation apparatus, and the premises on which these radiation sources and apparatus are secured, stored, used or manufactured.
- Premises at which unsealed radioactive sources are stored or used.
- The sources and principle place of storage of portable radiation sources.

Radiation Management Plans

Radiation management plans are a requirement for the submission or resubmission of registration applications in the ACT. This is a document written by the owners of radiation sources that should demonstrate compliance with the legislation, Codes of Practice and Australian Standards. It is recommended that you refer to Schedule A of the ARPANSA publication RPS 14: Code of Practice for Radiation Protection in Medical Applications of Ionizing Radiation, which may assist you in developing a radiation management plan.

You will also need to refer to the following publications in preparing your application and Radiation Management Plan:

- *Radiation Protection Act 2006*
- Schedule 9 of the National Directory for Radiation Protection
- Code of Practice for the security of radioactive sources
- Code of Practice for safe transport of radioactive material
- Any relevant radiation health series publications
- Any relevant radiation protection series publications
- Any relevant Australian Standards

Application process

1. Complete the application. Submit the form, supporting information and appropriate fee to the Health Protection Service. The supporting information must include a shielding design for the room/s containing the radiation source (new application only). A radiation management plan for the premises must be included, for further guidance please call the Health Protection Service on the number below.
2. The Health Protection Service appoints a consulting radiation expert to conduct a compliance test on the apparatus. If the test report indicates that there are changes required these need to be completed before registration will be granted.
3. The application is assessed by the ACT Radiation Council. Conditions may be imposed.
4. If the application is approved, the Health Protection Service will issue a registration certificate.

Please note that registration must be issued before you can operate the radiation source.

Exempt apparatus

Televisions, visual display units, cold cathode gas discharge tubes and electron microscopes do not need to be registered.

Licence

A person and/or organisation must possess a licence issued under the *Radiation Protection Act 2006* to deal with a radiation source in the ACT.

The meaning of **deal** in the legislation includes the following:

- manufacturing
- possessing
- supplying
- using
- disposing of a radiation source or
- storing, packing or transporting radioactive material

Note: An organisation cannot 'use' a radiation source.

A person must be able to demonstrate the competency to use radiation sources through completion of recognised training courses. Copies of training documentation must be supplied with the application. For board registered occupations please supply your current board registration number. If applicants currently hold a comparable registration in other states or the Northern Territory please provide a copy.

Application process

1. Complete the application. Submit the form, supporting information and appropriate fee to the Health Protection Service.
2. The application is assessed by the ACT Radiation Council. Conditions may be imposed.
3. When the application is approved, the Health Protection Service issues a licence.

Please note that until your licence has been issued you are not allowed to deal with a radiation source.

For further information:

Health Protection Service
Howard Florey Centenary House, 25 Mulley St, Holder
Locked Bag 5, Weston Creek ACT 2611
Phone: (02) 6205 1700 Fax: (02) 6205 1705
Email: hps@act.gov.au
Web site: www.health.act.gov.au