

INFORMATION SHEET 11b

Radiation Protection Training Courses for Local Authority Schools and Colleges



The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999

The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99) require that a radiation employer ensure that radioactive substances are regularly accounted for, used and stored properly, handled safely and also monitored regularly (to check the designation of areas). The radiation employer must also arrange for **relevant employees to be provided with appropriate information, instruction and training in radiation protection** to ensure their health and safety. The work carried out with radioactive materials in school laboratories means that the radiation employer must always consult, and also in almost all cases appoint in writing a Radiation Protection Adviser. In relation to the meaning of a "radiation employer", the local authority is likely to represent this role on behalf of each school.

The need for radiation protection training

All employees involved in using the school radiation sources will need suitable training to

help develop and sustain a commitment to restricting exposure wherever this is reasonably practicable. The course described below will therefore be suitable for science technicians or RPSs (teachers).

Our one day schools radiation protection course

This one-day course is suitable for physics department science technicians and Radiation Protection Supervisors (RPSs). It is expected that the RPS will normally be one of the teaching staff, usually the Head of Physics or other teacher. Any teacher who uses the radioactive sources will also find the course of benefit. As the course is designed for both audiences; the morning session will be attended by both RPSs (teachers) and technicians; and the afternoon session by RPSs (teachers).

Details of the likely syllabus for a typical course is shown below.



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TYPICAL SYLLABUS COVERED DURING A SCHOOL RADIATION PROTECTION COURSE

Session 1 - Radiation Physics

- Basic atomic structure and physics
- Types of ionising radiation and different types of school sources
- Radioactivity and radioactive decay
- Units of radiation protection
- Basic radiation shielding and other safety principles

Session 2- Health effects

- Relative risks from radiation exposure and health/biological effects
- Risks in perspective

Session 3- Legislation and guidance

- Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999
- IRR99 Approved Code of Practice
- Environmental Permitting Regulations 2011
- MHSW 1999/HASAWA 1974
- Other non- statutory guidance

Session 4 - Dose limits

- Dose Limits for occupationally exposed individuals
- Dose Limits for other persons

Session 5 – Detection and measurement of radiation/radioactivity

- Dose rate and contamination measurements
- Leak testing of sources/certificates

Session 6 – Radiation employer responsibilities

- Consultation and appointment of a radiation protection adviser
- Prior risk assessment
- Local rules and contingency plans
- Appointment of a radiation protection supervisor
- Designation of areas
- Sources accountability, monitoring and record keeping
- Storage arrangements
- Disposal of sources

Session 7 – Radiation management and health and safety policies

- The Local Authority Radiation Protection Officer and administrative arrangements
- The role of the Radiation Protection Adviser
- The role of the Radiation Employer
- The role of the Radiation Protection Supervisor
- School Radiation Protection Policies and Safety Management



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Thinking of using us for Radiation Protection Training?

Our courses are normally held on school premises, or if necessary at a mutually agreed venue.

Details of fees and costs is available through our RAPAS web site, www.rapas.co.uk or on enquiry by email or telephone.

Please contact us for further details.

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