

INFORMATION SHEET 11

Radiation Awareness Training



General Requirements

All employees involved in work with ionising radiation, including management, will need suitable training to help develop and sustain a commitment to restricting exposure wherever this is reasonably practicable.

The focus of this information sheet is therefore to recommend radiation awareness training for employees who may not be directly involved with work using ionising radiation, but who may nevertheless be required to have an awareness/appreciation of the radiation work and also the radiation safety precautions that are in force.

The different categories of person who may require information and radiation awareness training include:

- people who enter controlled areas under written arrangements (regulation 18(3));
- other workers who may, for example, need to recognise warning signs;
- safety representatives; and
- supervisors and managers with specific responsibilities under the Regulations.

There is also a need for radiation awareness training where any work with ionising radiation undertaken by one employer is likely to give rise to the exposure to ionising radiation of the employee of another employer. A good example of this is where an outside undertaking carries out gamma radiography (normally at night) on the site of another employer (the host). In these circumstances there is a possibility of employees from the host site being affected by the radiography work.

Each employer must therefore co-operate by the exchange of information or otherwise to the extent necessary to ensure that each employer is able to comply with the requirements of the Ionising Radiations Regulations (and other relevant regulations).

Our courses

Our radiation awareness courses are mainly aimed at operators of equipment containing a radiation source (or a device that can produce ionising radiation (i.e. x-rays)); or other persons who may need an awareness of ionising radiation and the safety procedures that are necessary. During the course the students are taught about radiation risks and how to put these into context. The teaching sessions also provide practical examples on how to keep radiation doses as low as possible. One of the most important objectives of the course is to reinforce the need for operators to always follow radiation safety procedures; and if necessary to show them how to use a radiation monitor.

The training provides re-assurance to operators and other persons and provides them with an understanding that provided they follow the safety rules and procedures they are safe from the effects of any exposure to ionising radiation.

Do you need to set up Radiation Awareness Training?

[See tables below for a guide on suitable radiation awareness training for employees and other persons.](#)

Radiation Awareness Training

X-RAY USERS

Use or practice	Radiation type	Radiation awareness training suitable for:
Hand held XRF gun	X-rays/Fluorescent X-rays	Engineering/Maintenance staff/QA managers
Industrial X-ray NDT <i>contractor</i>	X-rays	NDT Support staff
Industrial X-ray NDT <i>compound</i>	X-rays	NDT support staff/Maintenance staff/QA managers
X-ray analytical (XRF/XRD)	X-rays/Fluorescent X-rays	Laboratory staff/QA managers
Electron beam welder	Electron beam - X-rays	Maintenance staff/QA managers
Linac NDT	X-rays	Maintenance staff/QA managers
X-ray irradiation/sterilisation	X-rays	Production operatives/Maintenance staff/QA managers
Food X-ray gauges	X-rays (for level/inspection)	Production operatives/ Maintenance staff
Airport/Prison baggage inspection	X-rays from cabinet/conveyor	Machine operatives/Security support staff
Ports/Docks screening equipment	X-rays from cabinet/conveyor or mobile	Machine operatives/Security support staff
Police screening equipment	X-rays from cabinet/conveyor or mobile	Machine operatives/Support staff
Banks/Offices postal inspection equipment	X-rays from cabinet/conveyor	Machine operatives/Managers
Suppliers of X-ray radiation equipment	From any of the types above	Software support staff/Technical staff/Safety managers
Suppliers of medical diagnostic X-ray equipment	Diagnostic X-rays	Software support staff/Technical staff/Safety managers

SEALED RADIATION SOURCE USERS

Use or practice	Radiation type	Persons or employees
Chemical/Petrochemical site gauges	Gamma source (for level or density)	Plant operatives/Maintenance/Engineering/Safety managers
Paper/Textile industry beta gauges	Beta source (for backscatter/basis weight)	Machine operatives/Maintenance staff/Safety managers
Food gamma gauges	Gamma source (for level/inspection)	Production operatives/Maintenance staff
Gamma ray NDT <i>contractor</i>	Gamma source	NDT support staff
Gamma NDT <i>compound</i>	Gamma source	NDT support staff/Maintenance staff/QA managers
Gamma irradiation/sterilisation units	Gamma sources	Production operatives/QA and safety managers
Airports/Ports/Police use of small portable analytical devices	Electron capture source (in analytical equipment)	Device operatives/Security support staff
Environmental testing laboratories using analytical equipment	Electron capture source	Laboratory staff/Other users of the equipment /Managers
Pharmaceutical, QA or research laboratories using analytical equipment	Electron capture source	Laboratory staff/Other users of the equipment /Managers
Universities and teaching establishments using analytical equipment	Electron capture source	Students/Other users of the equipment
Universities and teaching establishments using small calibration sources	Alpha/beta/gamma/electron capture and mössbauer sources etc	Students/Safety managers
Suppliers of radiation equipment containing sealed sources	Alpha/beta/gamma/electron capture and mössbauer sources etc	Technical staff/General staff/Safety managers

NB: If you are a Veterinary Practice or School/College, we have prepared separate information training sheets (Information Sheet 11a (Veterinary Practices) and Sheet 11b (Schools/Colleges)). See the Web site for these.

If you do not appear on the list above please contact so we can discuss your individual requirements.



INFORMATION SHEET 11

Radiation Protection Advice and Services
11a Farrar Lane
Leeds
West Yorkshire LS16 6AD
Phone: 0113 2677272
Mobile: 07767161586
michael.omahony@rapas.co.uk
www.rapas.co.uk

Radiation Awareness Training

Thinking of using us for your Radiation Safety Awareness Training?

Our Radiation Awareness courses can be held on your premises, or at a mutually agreed venue.

Details of all our courses, including an estimate of the likely costs is available through our RAPAS web site, www.rapas.co.uk or on enquiry by email or telephone.

Radiation Protection Advice and Services
Michael O'Mahony
(Radiation Protection Adviser and Radioactive
Waste Adviser)
Leeds LS16 6AD
Tel 0113 2677272
Mobile 07767161586
michael.omahony@rapas.co.uk
www.rapas.co.uk