

## *Radiation Protection Adviser Service for Veterinary Practices*



### **Broad scope and main features of the RPA service**

#### **1. Scope of the RPA service**

The RPA will assist you in complying with the relevant requirements of the IRR99, Veterinary Guidance Notes, or any new radiation related safety directives. In particular, the RPA will:

- assist in the drawing up of relevant health and safety documents (e.g. risk assessments, local rules and contingency plans) for x-ray work at the veterinary practice.
- advise on the legal aspects for the use of x-ray equipment at work. Inspect building plans and shielding requirements.
- carry out periodic radiation surveys of the area where the x-ray equipment is being used, and complete selective safety and performance checks on the x-ray equipment, warning signals/safety systems, and the protective clothing.
- provide guidance/advice to ensure that critical examinations of new x-ray equipment are completed before first use.
- assist in determining the extent of any controlled or supervised areas at the practice, and if necessary advise on the requirements for the dose monitoring of non-classified persons.
- advise on the arrangements and appointment of Radiation Protection Supervisors
- advice on the level of training and instruction required for Radiation Protection Supervisors, practice employees or any other relevant persons affected by the work.

### **RPA recognition**

Regulation 13 of the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999 (IRR99) states that when undertaking any work involving ionising radiations the radiation employer must consult with a suitable Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA) on certain matters detailed in the IRR99. Michael O'Mahony is a certificated Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA), and has been recognised by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as meeting the criteria of competence to provide advice as an RPA. Radiation Protection Advice and Services offers RPA advice and consultancy services to Veterinary Practices (radiation employers), to assist them in complying with the requirements of the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 and other relevant legislation or radiation safety directives.

### **When an employer must consult with an RPA**

Discussion and consultation between RPA and employer would be reasonably expected on a wide range of issues. However, the employer must consult on four key topics:

- the prior examination of plans for the installation and acceptance into service of new or modified sources of ionising radiation.
- the designation and implementation of controlled and supervised areas.
- the regular use and calibration of radiation monitoring equipment; and
- the periodic examination and testing of engineering controls, design features, safety features and warning devices and regular checking of systems of work provided to restrict radiation exposure.

NB: The Practice Standards Scheme (RCVS) recommends that veterinary practices using ionising radiation should appoint and consult with a Radiation Protection Adviser.

## *Radiation Protection Adviser Service for Veterinary Practices*



- advise on the criteria for the designation of classified persons.
- advise on the selection and use of suitable PPE.
- advise on the criteria for dose monitoring assessment

### **2. Practical features of the RPA service**

In considering how to fully meet the needs of veterinary practices, and provide a high quality RPA service; Radiation Protection Advice and Services considers that this can only be achieved by carrying out an annual RPA visit to each practice. The RPA service therefore comprises the following features:

- at least 1 RPA visit per year to the practice to discuss the requirements of the relevant legislation. The visit will include a radiation survey of the radiography work area and safety checks on the x-ray equipment.
- following the RPA visit, a written report will be issued containing advice and recommendations. An electronic version of the RPA report can also be provided.
- a physical radiation health and safety file will be provided.
- you can also choose to use the client area of the RAPAS website to store any radiation related documents.
- telephone/email advice and technical support will be available throughout the term of the contract. Tele-conferencing or video-conferencing can also be arranged.

### **3. Other features of the service**

If necessary the RPA will assist the employer in the investigation of any of the following occurrences:

- if it is suspected that a person may have been overexposed to ionising radiation.
- if a radiation dose received by an employee is suspected to be much greater or less than that registered on their individual radiation dosimeter.
- if there is an indication from the results of environmental or individual radiation monitoring of unsafe or unsatisfactory practices.

Following an investigation, the RPA will recommend in writing what actions are to be implemented to rectify matters.

---

## *Radiation Protection Adviser Services for Veterinary Practices*

---



### **Thinking of using us for Radiation Protection Advice?**

Why not check our website for further information and get in touch via the web site enquiry form; or if you prefer by email or telephone.

### **Radioactive Substances Regulations**

Some aspects of the work with ionising radiation (unsealed) may fall under the requirements of the Radioactive Substances Regulations<sup>1</sup>. There are different requirements depending on whether the operator is in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. An employer who is authorised by the environment agency (EA in England and Wales, SEPA in Scotland and IPRI in Northern Ireland) to keep radioactive material or accumulate or dispose of radioactive waste, must comply with the conditions in the permit or certificate. For permit holders in England and Wales, this includes the general management condition which states:

*"The operator shall manage and operate his activities using sufficient competent persons and resources".*

and for certificate holders in Scotland:

*"The Registered Person shall ensure that only suitably qualified and experienced persons shall have access to and be permitted to use the Registered Substances".*

The Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA), Michael O'Mahony is also a certificated Radioactive Waste Adviser and can advise Veterinary Practices on how to meet the terms of their permit or certificate.

**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**

---

<sup>1</sup> Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (EPR2010) as amended by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.