

## INFORMATION SHEET 7

### *Radiation Protection Adviser Service for users of hand held XRF units*



**This information sheet briefly describes the main legal aspects of using these types of devices. It is followed by a brief description of the RPA services offered by Radiation Protection Advice and Services (RAPAS).**

**Note: the information contained in this sheet should not be used as a substitute for consultation with or the appointment of a Radiation Protection Adviser. Neither should it be taken as a comprehensive description of all the requirements of the legislation that a radiation employer may need to consider.**

### **RPA Recognition**

The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99) require that RPA advice must be provided by an individual, or a body, that meets the criteria of competence specified by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Michael O'Mahony is a certificated Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA), and has been recognised through the RPA 2000 assessment scheme as meeting the criteria of competence to provide advice as an RPA.

### **Regulatory Requirements**

#### Approved Code of Practice

Employers using this type of equipment must comply with the requirements of the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99). IRR99 and the supporting Approved Code of Practice "Work

with ionising radiation", L121, are available on the HSE website:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l121.pdf>

#### Duties of manufacturers and suppliers

Manufacturers/suppliers must provide the employer with information about the proper use, testing and maintenance of the analyser. Information on the magnitude and nature of the radiation risk and an overview of the regulatory requirements should also be provided. Also particular care should be taken when obtaining second-hand equipment, to ensure that appropriate information is passed on and that all the safety features are fitted and working correctly.

#### ALARP

As well as specifying dose limits and the need to keep radiation exposures as low as reasonably practicable, IRR99 also include the following requirements for this type of equipment:

- ✓ Notification to the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) at least 28 days prior to first use. See...  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/ionising/notification.htm>

#### Consultation and appointment of an RPA

- ✓ Employers must arrange to consult a suitable Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA) to advise them on compliance with the regulations.

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### Prior risk assessment

- ✓ Carry out a prior risk assessment, that considers normal operations, possible radiation accidents and identify the steps needed to restrict radiation exposures. These should include engineering controls (including safety and warning systems) and safe working procedures. More information on the required content of the risk assessment is given in paragraphs 44 and 45 of L121. Normally the RPA would be consulted when preparing the risk assessment

### Controlled or supervised areas

- ✓ The risk assessment will determine whether any Controlled or Supervised Areas need to be designated. The operator must prevent access to the Controlled Area.

### Training

- ✓ Operators must receive radiation safety training in the use of the equipment.

### Safety checks and radiation monitoring

- ✓ The safety and warning systems must be checked regularly, and the extent and magnitude of any radiation levels must be monitored.

### Dosemeters

- ✓ Use of dosimeters may be necessary to demonstrate that radiation exposures are being adequately restricted

### Local Rules

- ✓ Local Rules should be provided containing the safe working instructions and contingency plans

### Radiation Protection Supervisor

- ✓ A suitable Radiation Protection Supervisor should be appointed

## **Outline of RPAS RPA service for users of Hand Held XRF units**

- At least 1 RPA visit per year to discuss:-
  - Risk assessments
  - Restriction of exposure
  - Designation of areas
  - Local rules
  - Radiation safety training
  - Appointment of the radiation protection supervisor
  - Dosimetry
  - Contingency plans
  - Investigation of any incidents
  - Informal training on site

The visit will also include checks on the operation of the equipment's radiation warning and safety features and performance checks on the XRF equipment

- Following the visit, a written report will be issued containing RPA advice and the results of the performance and safety checks
- Telephone/email advice and technical support throughout the term of the contract. Tele-conferencing or video-conferencing can also be arranged

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#### **Pricing of the RPA Service**

- ✓ We do not normally charge for travelling time
- ✓ Price of RPA contract normally starts at £750 per year for use of 1 unit

#### **Do you need to use our Radiation Protection Adviser Service?**

Please check our website for further information or email or telephone us

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