

RADIATION SAFETY NEWSLETTER

UK EH&S, Radiation Safety Office

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RSO Column - Bob Wilson

APPLAUSE to Eva Kaplan, Animal Sciences and Pamela Jacobs, Clinical Lab – They have each received the Environmental Health & Safety Committee Safety Award for exceptional lab management and safety practices. Our thanks to both of you for setting a great example for safety and your tremendous cooperation. It helps in so many ways.

Contaminated Package Receipt Rawlings, Assistant RSO

One of our responsibilities in Radiation Safety is to satisfy the many very strict rules for receiving, monitoring and processing radioactive material shipments.

We test all outer surfaces of packages for contamination, as well as the innermost accessible package, or pig, of each shipment that we receive. We of course do not violate any sterility shields. Occasionally, we see some slight contamination on inner packages. It is rare to find any contamination on the outer box. Our guidelines for handling the contamination are as follows:

- If the primary container wipe test result exceeds 5,000 DPM (83 Bq), we stop delivery of the package unless decontamination to below this limit is effected.
- If the primary container wipe test result is in the following ranges, we will deliver it with a



radiation warning tag affixed to the container and with a note of the level of contamination to inform laboratory personnel of any hazard.

**H-3 500 DPM to 5,000 DPM,
All others 200 DPM to 5,000 DPM**

If you receive a notice of contamination and have questions about it, do not hesitate to contact Fred Rawlings or other radiation safety staff at 3-6777.

Location, Location, Location

Of course, we are talking about the location of the radioactive material that you may have stored for long periods. Since September 11, the security of radioactive materials has taken on a greatly heightened concern and emphasis. The Radiation Safety Office may be able to help by providing secure, long-term storage. There are several types of radiation sources

appropriate for such storage. (We can tell you we have a secure location, but we are not going to tell you where it is.)

- Sources that you may never use again.
- Sources that are in areas that present security concerns.
- Orphan sources – Sources that do not belong to you or anyone else.

Call and discuss the options.

Radiation Safety Training – Fred Rawlings, Assistant RSO

Radiation Safety Training courses have evolved over the years from a group of free standing lectures, into an integrated concise course. The course circa 1994 consisted of a 20-minute video presentation of Radiation Safety topics the day of registration. Then, the prospective radiation worker had to complete 5 more 1-hour sessions of Lecture in order to be certified. This proved to be unwieldy, and the course was distilled into a single three-hour session.

Another change was adding customized training for the new radiation workers-to-be. A vital part of the training now is On-Site training by the Authorized User or supervisor in a particular jobsite. Rather than watch a video (literally) of how they did it at Indiana University in the

early 1990's, the prospective radiation worker is now given specific training in what hazards may exist in the very area where they will be working. These training forms are available at the website located at:

<http://www.uky.edu/Services/EHS/Radiation/>

This website gives the prospective radiation worker links to the On-Site Radiation Safety Training Form and the Radiation Worker Registration Form. Contact the Radiation Safety Office and bring both of these signed forms to the Radiation Safety Office at 102 Animal Pathology building.

This "Right to Know" training lasts about 15 minutes. Completing these three short steps will allow you to work under supervision with radioactive materials. When you complete the Basic Radiation Safety Training course within the next four months, you will be a certified Radiation Worker at UK.

Basic Radiation Safety Training Course Schedule

Tuesday, April 16	HS 211, HSLC	9:00 – 12:00
Thursday, May 16	HS 214, HSLC	1:00 – 4:00
Wednesday, June 19	HS 102A, HSLC	9:00 – 12:00
Wednesday, July 17	HS 501B, HSLC	9:00 – 12:00
Thursday, August 22	HS 213, HSLC	1:00 – 4:00

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<http://www.uky.edu/Services/EHS/radiation/>

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