

Section 5

Training

Contents

A. Individuals Directly Using Radioactive Materials	5-1
1. Regulations for Training	5-1
a. Training for Safe Work Practices.....	5-1
b. Training for Specific Laboratories.....	5-2
c. Campus Wide Training	5-2
2. UW Training Class	5-2
a. Course	5-2
b. Class Schedule.....	5-3
c. Previously Trained Personnel.....	5-3
d. Radiation Scientist Exemption.....	5-3
d. Sealed Source Exemption	5-3
B. Individuals Not Directly Using Radioactive Materials.....	5-3

This section covers training for individuals working in or frequenting areas where radioactive materials are used.

A. Individuals Directly Using Radioactive Materials

1. Regulations for Training

a. Training for Safe Work Practices

State and federal regulations require that individuals who work with radioactive material be provided with sufficient training to enable them to conduct their work safely. This training must include information on the potential hazards associated with the use of radioactive material and the means by which these hazards can be minimized, emergency procedures, and institutional procedures for the procurement, use, and disposal of radioactive material.

b. Training for Specific Laboratories

It is also required that each Authorized Investigator provides instruction to all personnel on specific radiation safety requirements for the laboratories in which they will be working. This training must be directly related to the duties of the individual, and commensurate with the risks.

c. Campus Wide Training

1) Independent Radiation Workers

All individuals who will work independently with radioactive materials must first complete the Radiation Safety Training class. Only those persons who have completed this training class will be certified as radiation workers and listed on an authorization.

2) Directly Supervised Radiation Workers

Prior to taking the Radiation Safety Training class, individuals may use radioactive materials only under the direct supervision of laboratory staff who are already certified for the use of radioactive materials by the Radiation Safety Office. This period of directly supervised use must not last longer than three months. This would apply to individuals who are enrolled in a Radiation Safety Training class but have not yet completed the class, or temporary personnel who are only going to be in the laboratory for short periods of time. Examples of these temporary personnel would include rotating graduate students, work-study students, visiting scientists, or students enrolled in certain laboratory courses or training programs that may use radionuclides in small amounts.

2. UW Training Class

License conditions require that all individuals working directly and independently with unsealed radioactive materials in the course of their employment at the University of Washington must attend eight hours of radiation worker training and pass a final examination.

a. Course

Training is offered in four two-hour sessions. Topics include basic radiation physics, biological effects of ionizing radiation, radiation survey techniques, waste disposal, UW and State Rules & Regulations. The Radiation Safety Training class is supplemented with a training manual. Individuals are encouraged to keep the course manual, Principles of Radiation Safety, as a reference. They are further encouraged to retake or review training periodically as a refresher.

b. Class Schedule

The Radiation Safety Training class is offered approximately ten times a year by the Radiation Safety Office staff.

c. Previously Trained Personnel

All four sessions are required, unless an individual has had previous radiation safety training at another institution, in which case only Sessions 3 and 4 are required.

d. Radiation Scientist Exemption

Certain radiation scientists who have significant past training, experience, and certification, e.g. Health Physicists and Nuclear Medicine Physicians, are also exempt from the first two sessions. If you are unsure of your status, call the Radiation Safety Office.

d. Sealed Source Exemption

Personnel working with sealed sources need to have training commensurate with the risks of the materials that they will be using and with their proximity to the materials. However in many cases, the risks from small sealed sources may be very slight and workers would not be expected to get a measurable occupational dose. In these situations, personnel may not be required to take the UW Radiation Safety Training program, if appropriate instruction can be provided by other means. Consult with the Radiation Safety Office regarding the training necessary for sealed source use.

B. Individuals Not Directly Using Radioactive Materials

Washington Administrative Code 246-221-140 requires instruction for individuals working in or frequenting any portion of a "restricted area." The Code also defines a restricted area (WAC 246-220-010):

"Restricted Area - means any area to which access is limited by the licensee or registrant for purposes of protecting individuals against undue risks from exposure to radiation and radioactive material."

At the University of Washington, there are very few areas where access is limited for these reasons. Nearly all of the laboratories where radioactive materials are used are conducting biomedical research. Very small amounts of radioactive material are used and "undue risks" from these materials are not encountered. Often, the risks from biohazards and chemicals will far outweigh the radiation risks. These laboratories are not considered restricted areas for radiation protection purposes, and the likelihood of receiving a measurable dose is highly improbable.

Therefore, if individuals frequent or work in research laboratories yet do not directly

handle radioactive materials, they do not need training as radiation workers. A determination about training for individuals frequenting other areas, where “undue risks” may be present, will be made by Radiation Safety Office staff.