UNRETURNED DOSIMETER POLICY

State of Washington regulations [WAC 246-221-090, WAC 246-225-020 (2), and WAC 246-239-030] define the conditions when personal dosimetry must be worn, require that dosimetry records are complete, and that the University of Washington (UW) and its affiliates maintain a safe and effective radiation-monitoring program. The State of Washington Department of Health (DOH) inspects the UW annually to assure compliance with these regulations. Following is the policy regarding unreturned dosimeters at locations where the UW Environmental Health and Safety Department (EH&S) provides radiation dosimetry services. This policy results from increasing concerns expressed by the DOH regarding high rates of unreturned dosimeters encountered at the UW, and the UW Radiation Safety Committee’s intent to increase compliance with regulatory requirements. Under the provisions of this policy, unreturned dosimeters are defined as either “delinquent” or “lost”. This policy also applies only to dosimeters issued to personnel (not control or area monitor dosimeters).

“Lost” dosimeters are those that cannot be accounted for, but are reported as lost to the UW Radiation Safety Office (RSO) in a timely manner. When lost dosimeters are reported to the RSO during the wear period, replacement dosimeters will be issued expeditiously and RSO staff may make a dose assessment for the wear period. Such situations should not involve any cessation of authorized work under normal circumstances, but in situations where high doses could be incurred, the Radiation Safety Office may temporarily restrict work until a new dosimeter can be issued. A monetary penalty will not be assessed by the RSO for a lost dosimeter, as long as the loss is reported within 90 days after the end of the exposure (wear) period and losses happen in a non-recurring manner (no more than 2 reported losses within a 12 month period).

A dosimeter is “delinquent” if not reported lost or not returned to the RSO within ninety (90) days after the end of the exposure (wear) period. A monetary fee will be assessed for delinquent dosimeters, and dosimeters reported as lost on a chronic or recurring basis (as defined above). The monetary fee for each unreturned dosimeter meeting these criteria will be twenty-five dollars ($25.00). This rate may be adjusted at the discretion of EH&S. The EH&S Radiation Safety Office will obtain budget numbers from departments having delinquent dosimeters and assess these fees through University of Washington internal sales documents (ISD).

Unreturned dosimeters which are recovered after being classified as delinquent, should still be returned to the RSO whenever possible to ensure that proper dosimetry records are available for each individual.

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