

RADIATION DOSIMETRY REQUIREMENTS AND FAQs

Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S), Radiation Safety issues dosimeters to monitor radiation exposure to individuals working with radioactive materials and radiation producing machines in accordance with federal and state requirements

WHY SHOULD I WEAR MY DOSIMETER?

Your dosimeter allows the University to monitor your radiation dose and investigate any elevated, abnormal, or unexpected measurements to determine how to keep your radiation dose as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA).

AM I REQUIRED TO BE ISSUED A DOSIMETER?

State regulations [[WAC 246-221-090](#)] require the University to issue radiation dosimeters to individuals who are expected to receive a radiation dose greater than 500 millirem (mrem) per year to your whole body, 1,500 mrem per year to the lens of your eyes, or 5,000 mrem per year to your extremities (usually your hands). These values are 10% of the regulatory dose limits. If your work does not have the potential to result in these exposure levels, you are not required to be issued a dosimeter. Some job duties, such as working with fluoroscopy, require the individual to wear a dosimeter regardless of the individual's expected radiation dose.

AM I REQUIRED TO WEAR MY DOSIMETER?

If you have been issued a dosimeter (ring or collar), you are required to wear it so that EH&S Radiation Safety can monitor the radiation dose you receive. If dosimeter readings show that you are not required to be issued a dosimeter (as specified above), then you may request to terminate your dosimeter if desired. Ultimately, EH&S Radiation Safety will determine if your dosimeter can be terminated.

WHEN AM I REQUIRED TO RETURN MY DOSIMETER?

You are required to return your dosimeter to your area dosimetry coordinator (ADC) promptly after the end of your wear period (monthly or quarterly). Returning your dosimeter promptly allows Radiation Safety to follow up on elevated, abnormal, or unexpected results quickly.

WILL I BE CHARGED FOR NOT RETURNING MY DOSIMETER?

No, you will **NOT** be charged for a missing or unreturned dosimeter. However, patterns of not returning your dosimeters may result in disciplinary action, specifically if you are required to be issued a dosimeter.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Additional information is available on the [Personnel Monitoring](#) and [Dosimetry](#) pages of the [EH&S website](#). The requirements of the dosimetry program are provided in the [UW Radiation Safety Manual](#).

Please contact EH&S Radiation Safety at radsaf@uw.edu or 206-543-0463 if you have any questions.