



Health Physics Branch
GPO Box 125
HOBART TAS 7001
90 Davey Street
HOBART TAS 7000
Phone: 03 6222 7256
Fax: 03 6222 7257

Email: health.physics@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Radiation Protection Act 2005
Radiation Protection Regulations 2006

INFORMATION SHEET:

RADIATION LICENCE INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

This information can also be accessed at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/radiationcontrol

Radiation Licence Information for Applicants

The *Radiation Protection Act 2005* requires that dealings with radiation sources must be authorised by a licence. Dealings are specified in the Act and include: sell, acquire, possess, use, store, manufacture, transport, install, service, repair and dispose of.

The *Radiation Protection Regulations 2006* allow all dealings with SOME (very low risk) radiation sources to be exempted from the requirement for a licence. Examples are very small quantities of radioactive materials. The quantities exempted are in line with international exemption levels.

The *Radiation Protection Regulations 2006* also allow SOME dealings with other radiation sources (that are not quite such a low risk) to be exempt from the requirement for a licence. An example of such a radiation source is the domestic smoke alarm. You do not require a licence to acquire and use such a radiation source but a supplier needs a licence. This ensures that the smoke alarm that you buy complies with the current radiation safety requirements.

The *Radiation Protection Regulations 2006* also allow some people to USE specified (low risk) radiation sources without being individually licensed. An example is the baggage x-ray unit commonly found at airports. All the individual operators do not need to be named on a licence but the Radiation Management Plan for the unit must indicate that these operators are trained in the radiation protection measures required for the unit.

The *Radiation Protection Regulations 2006* contain specific requirements for students and trainees and their supervisors. Students and trainees do not need to be named individually on licences but must be covered by provisions in the Radiation Management Plan.

The attached flowcharts “Determination of whether licence required for dealing with radioactive material” or “Determination of whether a licence is required for dealing with a radiation apparatus” may assist you to decide whether you need a licence to deal with your radiation source.

Flowcharts “Determining whether an individual requires a licence when dealing with radioactive materials” or “Determining whether individual operators require a licence when dealing with ionising radiation apparatus” or “Determining whether an individual requires a licence when dealing with a non-ionising radiation apparatus” may also assist you to determine whether all operators need to be licensed to use your radiation source.

If you do require a licence to deal with your radiation source, then you need to be aware of some requirements.

If you need a licence to “**possess**” a radiation source, then you will have to submit a **Radiation Management Plan** with your licence application. The content of the plan is specified in the *Radiation Protection Regulations 2006*. Sample plans are available from the Department of Health and Human Services website <http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/agency/pro/radiation/index.php>.

If you wish to “**use**” a radiation source, then it must be shown to be fit for the purpose. This means that it must have a current “**certificate of compliance**”. The certificate indicates that the source complies with the relevant safety standards relating to how it is designed and manufactured. This requirement is not relevant for unsealed radioactive material. Exempted radiation sources also do not require certificates of compliance because any radiation hazard that they present is already extremely low.

The “**place**” in which you wish to carry out your radiation practice must also comply with relevant radiation safety standards and, to show this, the place must have a **certificate of registration**. This ensures that the radiation source may be used and/or stored safely in that place in the way proposed. In particular, places must be designed so that radiation levels outside the place are sufficiently low that they will not cause any harm to people or the environment.

Some radiation sources emit such low levels of radiation that they can be used in any location, with no special requirements. These radiation sources are specified in the Regulations. They include all radiation sources exempted from the need for a licence, radiation sources used in schools, some cabinet X-ray equipment, portable battery-powered X-ray units used for security purposes, chemical analysis units containing sealed sources and depleted uranium in specified forms.

The *Radiation Protection Act 2005* and *Radiation Protection Regulations 2006* specify the information that must be provided with an application for a licence. To make this process easier for you, application forms have been prepared and are available at:

<http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/agency/pro/radiation/index.php>.

These forms let you know the information that you must provide in support of your application and allow you to calculate the fee that you will be required to pay for the licence.

After you have obtained a licence, some circumstances may change e.g. your staff may change and you want new people to be authorised to deal with your radiation sources, or you may want to dispose of a source and/or acquire a new one.

You will require an “**amendment to a licence**” to obtain authorisation to do these things – BEFORE they occur. There is a fee for amendments.

Please note that, if you are disposing of a radiation source, then you must keep records as specified in the Regulations. The flowchart “Disposal of radiation apparatus” may assist you in this process.

You may also wish to change your mail address or other contact details, or if you are part of a company or partnership, the directors or partners may change. You will have to notify the Director of Public Health in writing of these “notifiable changes” within fourteen days of their occurrence. A form is available to make this easier for you. There is no charge for making these changes to your licence.

Additional information on the above topics

Certificates of compliance:

- A radiation source must have a certificate of compliance in order for it to be authorised for “use”. Certificates of compliance may be valid for a period of 1 to 4 years, depending on the type of radiation source.
- Quality assurance assessments conducted by the Health Physics Branch under the *Radiation Control Act 1977* within the past 1 to 4 years, as relevant, are accepted as certificates of compliance.
- Source manufacturers or suppliers and accredited people will now also be able to be authorised to issue certificates of compliance. Commercial costs will apply.

Certificate of Registration:

- Places in which radiation sources are to be stored and/or used will continue to require approval but the approval will be in the form of a “**Certificate of Registration**” for a place.
- Existing storage accommodation approvals issued by the Director of Public Health are accepted as registration certificates.
- Accredited people will be authorised to issue certificates of compliance for places.
- The certificate of compliance then has to be sent, with an “Application for certificate of registration for a radiation place”, to the Director of Public Health. This certificate will specify the conditions that ensure that the radiation source can be used and/or stored safely in the place.

Amendment to a licence:

- Licence holders can continue to seek amendments to their licences, including adding or deleting people and/or radiation sources from the licence.
- Forms are available for applications for amendments.
- A fee will be charged for substantial amendments, effective from 1 September 2006.

Changes to details on licences:

- Specified changes to licences, e.g. new mailing address, must now be provided within 14 days of the change. There is no fee for such changes.

Flowcharts

Flowcharts available on the Health Physics web site provide information about:

- Whether a licence is required to deal with a radiation source (which may be a radiation apparatus or radioactive material);
- Whether all individuals dealing with radiation sources need to be named on the licence;
- When a place requires registration;
- How to dispose of a radiation apparatus.

Application forms

The following application forms are available either from the Department of Health and Human Services web site <http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/agency/pro/radiation/index.php> or from the Health Physics Branch (telephone: 03 6222 7256):

RPA0001: Application for Licence to Deal with Radiation Apparatus – Ionising

RPA0002: Application for Licence to Deal with Radiation Apparatus – Non-Ionising

RPA0003: Application for Licence to Deal with Radioactive Material – Sealed and Unsealed

RPA0004: Application for Amendment of Licence to Deal with Radiation Apparatus – Ionising

RPA0005: Application for Amendment of Licence to Deal with Radiation Apparatus – Non-Ionising

RPA0006: Application for Amendment of Licence to Deal with Radioactive Material – Sealed and Unsealed

RPA0010: Notification of Change of Circumstances

RPA0101: Application for Certificate of Registration for a Radiation Place

RPA0201: Application for Certificate of Accreditation to issue Certificates of Compliance for Radiation Places

RPA0202: Application for Certificate of Accreditation to issue Certificates of Compliance for Radiation Sources