

Radiation Protection Act 2005
Radiation Protection Regulations 2016

INFORMATION SHEET:

INFORMATION ABOUT CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION FOR PLACES

This information can also be accessed at <http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/radiation>

Information about Certificates of Registration for Places

The need to register a place

Section 14 of the *Radiation Protection Act 2005* requires that: “The occupier of a place where a radiation source is usually or primarily used or stored must hold a certificate of registration for the place”.

Registration of a place ensures that the place meets all current radiation protection requirements so that the radiation source in the place may be safely used or stored. This provides reassurance to members of the public as well as ensuring a safe work environment for people dealing with radiation sources.

What a ‘place’ is

The Act defines a ‘**place**’ as including vacant land, premises and a vehicle.

‘**Premises**’ includes –

- (a) a building or structure; and
- (b) land on which a building or structure is situated; and
- (c) a part of any such building, structure or land.

A ‘**vehicle**’ means anything used for transporting any thing or person by land, water or air.

Examples of places

Places that require registration include:

- The room(s) in a dental surgery that contains an x-ray unit(s);
- The room(s) in a veterinary surgery that contains an x-ray unit(s);
- A nuclear medicine practice;
- The medical imaging department of a hospital;
- A laboratory where radiation sources are stored and/or used;
- An industrial site where radiation sources are stored and/or used.

Separate places require individual registration certificates. Thus, a diagnostic imaging practice that operates radiography equipment in several premises requires a registration certificate for each of its premises.

Similarly, if a given building has several occupiers, each of whom is operating radiography equipment, then each occupier requires a registration certificate for that part of the building under their control.

Places that do not require registration

Some radiation sources emit such low levels of radiation that they may be stored and used safely without the need for further protection. Thus, the premises in which they are used do not have to meet any special requirements and do not need to be registered. These radiation sources are specified in the *Radiation Protection Regulations 2016* and are:

- Exempted radiation sources (Regulations 37 to 43)
- A domestic smoke alarm
- A smoke detector that contains radioactive material and complies with AS 1603.2-1997
- Most luminous items, such as watches, that contain radioactive material
- A gaseous tritium light device that contains less than 74 gigabecquerels of tritium and is used for safety purposes
- A radiation source used or stored in a school in accordance with the ARPANSA “Safety Guide for the Use of Radiation in Schools - Part I: Ionizing Radiation”, RPS 18
- A radioactive mineral sample
- A gas chromatograph that contains Ni-63
- Most cabinet x-ray equipment that is used for the purpose of examining letters, packages or baggage
- A portable, battery-powered x-ray unit that is used for security purposes
- A chemical analysis unit that contains a sealed source
- A radiation apparatus on an aircraft or visiting vessel¹ provided that the radiation apparatus is not used in Tasmania
- Radioactive material, other than cargo, on an aircraft or visiting vessel provided that the radioactive material is not used in Tasmania
- Depleted uranium

The person who needs a registration certificate for a place

The certificate of registration is to be held by the ‘**occupier**’ of the place, who is defined in the Act as:

- (a) the person in occupation or control of the place; or
- (b) if the place has different parts occupied or controlled by different persons, the person in occupation or control of the part concerned.

How to obtain a certificate of registration for a place

First, the place must be assessed against the relevant ‘Certificate of Compliance: Standard for a Place’ and when it meets this Standard, a certificate of compliance can be issued for the place.

¹ ‘**vessel**’ means –

- (a) a ship, boat or other vessel used or capable of being used in navigation; or
- (b) a seaplane; or
- (c) an air cushion vehicle or similar type of craft;

An accredited person, who is either a private contractor² or, in certain circumstances, an authorised officer under the *Radiation Protection Act 2005*, can provide a certificate of compliance.

The certificate of compliance and other information required on the 'Application for a certificate of registration for a place' must then be sent to the Radiation Protection Unit for further assessment.

If the place meets all the relevant requirements and the required fee has been paid then the Director of Public Health will issue a registration certificate. This certificate may contain some conditions, e.g. a limit to the number of radiographs that may be taken per week, in order to ensure that the radiation protection requirements are met.

Cost and duration of registration

The fee for a certificate of registration for a place is specified in form RPA0101. The certificate of registration is generally valid until the radiation source specified in the certificate is no longer housed at that place.

The certificate may specify a particular type of radiation source (e.g. a low powered x-ray unit) to be used and/or stored in the place and a similar type of unit may replace this one without changing the registration certificate. A new certificate of registration will however be required if, for example, this unit is to be replaced by a much higher powered one because this change would probably result in a need for thicker walls in the room. A new certificate of compliance would be required with the application for the new certificate of registration.

The fee for an amendment to the certificate is specified in form RPA0101. An amendment will be required, for example, if the source usage is to be changed or structural alterations are to be carried out.

An amendment may also be needed if the usage of an area outside the registered place changes. For example, an office may be built in part of a car parking area adjacent to the registered place.

The Certificate of Registration for some places, e.g. those used for a nuclear medicine practice or as a laboratory in which unsealed radioactive materials are used, may specify that the certificate of compliance has to be renewed after a period of time – possibly every four or five years.

Queries?

Contact the Radiation Protection Unit on (03) 6166 7256 or by email at radiation.protection@dhhs.tas.gov.au.

² A list of accredited persons can be obtained from the Radiation Protection Unit.