

Ionising radiation warning signs

What the law requires and University expectations

Dr Joel Garner – Specialist Adviser in Radiation Protection

Safety Office

Overview

1. The law
2. Issues
3. University scenarios
4. Questions



The Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996



- Triangular with black border/pictogram and yellow background
- Easily visible where risk exists
- Materials to withstand environmental conditions.
- Size must correspond to the viewing distance



Storm Bert

Warning signs
just aren't that
great...



Issues observed



- Unnecessary signs on doors
- Warning signs should go on a door where there is a **risk on entering**
- Hazard location plans can be useful, but don't always comply with legislation

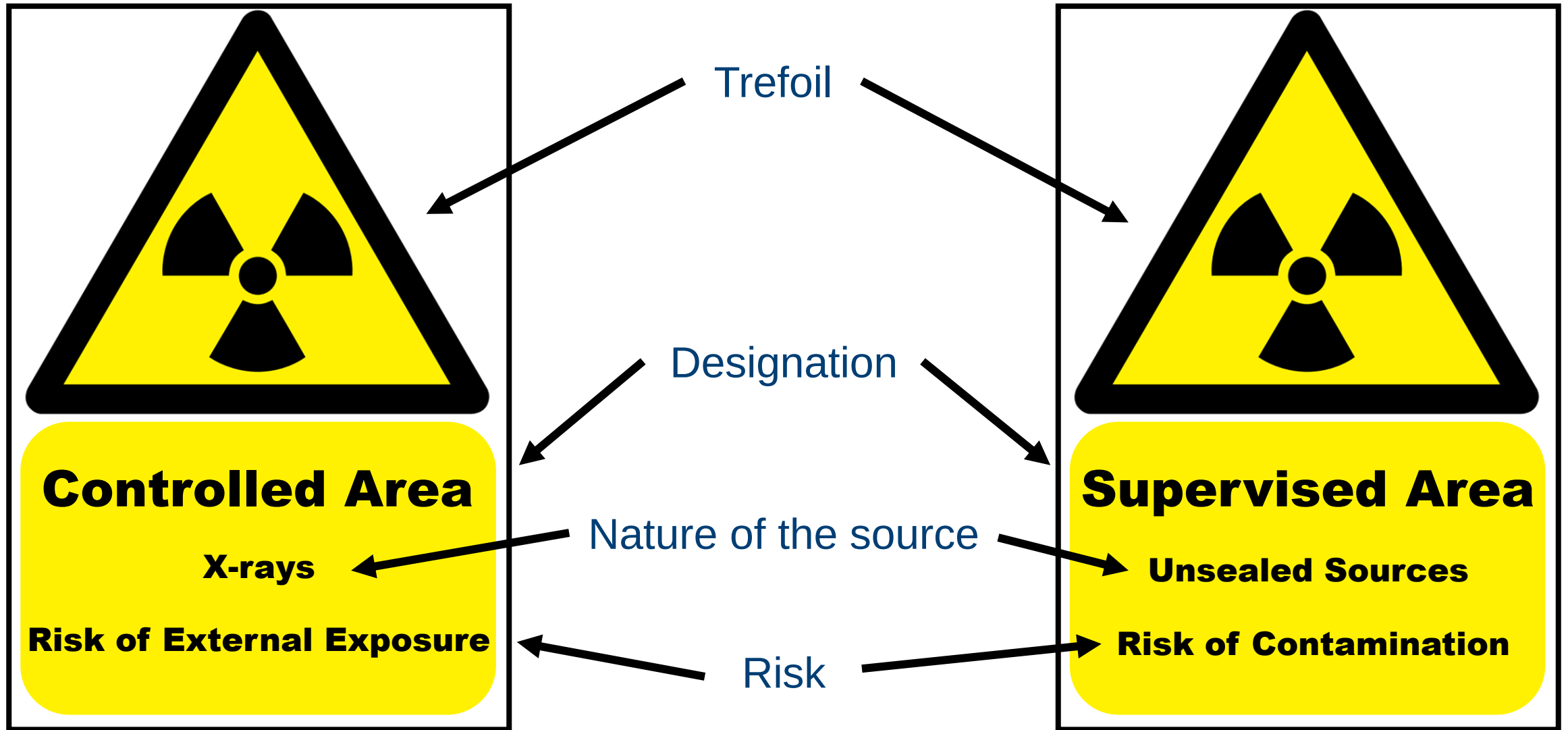


The Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017

- (1) *Every employer who designates any area as a controlled or supervised area must ensure that any such designated area –*
- (a) *is adequately described in local rules; and*
 - (b) *has suitable and sufficient signs displayed in suitable positions warning that the area has been so designated and indicating the nature of the radiation sources and the risks arising from such sources.*



Warning signs for designated areas



Other signage requirements and guidance for designated areas

- Signs should be located at each entrance to the area where they can be seen by people approaching them – on the door(s) or barrier(s)!
- You can add any supplementary text or cautionary notice to the sign appropriate to your situation.

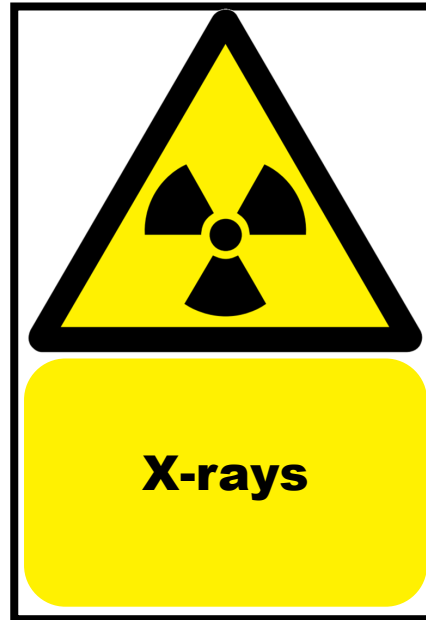


Combining signs



What about where there is no designated area?

- Warning signage should not usually be on the door to the room
- Place on the equipment, source store, cabinet, fridge, box, safe etc.



Scenario 1 – Supervised area laboratory using C-14 and tritium

- What warning signage is required on the entrance door?
- What warning signage is required on stores containing radioactive material in the lab?
- What warning signage is required above a disposal sink?



Scenario 1 – Supervised area laboratory using C-14 and tritium



Scenario 2 – x-ray cabinet in a non-designated area lab

- What warning signage is required on the entrance door to the lab?
- What warning signage is required on the equipment?



Scenario 3 – sealed sources (in or out of safe) in a temporary supervised area

- What warning signage is required on the entrance door to the lab?
- What warning signage is required on the source safe?



Radiation website signage resource

<https://www.safety.admin.cam.ac.uk/subjects/radiation/ionising-radiation/forms>

<https://www.safety.admin.cam.ac.uk/system/files/ir052.pdf>

<https://www.safety.admin.cam.ac.uk/system/files/ir018.pdf>



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Any questions?