



To Radiation Protection Supervisors and Departmental Administrators
From David Plumb, Radiation Protection Adviser
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Subject Update information
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A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY! –The RPS update meeting next year (2015) will be held on the morning of Wednesday March 25th. The meeting will be held at a Department on the Central sites of the University.

Following the Radiation Protection Supervisors update meeting held on 26 March 2014, a reminder of some of the topics covered is provided below. These topics are relevant to RPS and also to Administrators and senior management of departments. The PDF versions of the presentations for most of the sessions from the update meetings, from the past five years, can now be found at:

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/cam-only/offices/safety/radiation/ir/training/index.html>

1. Stuart Yates summarized some of the changes that have occurred in radiation protection legislation and practice over the past thirty years, and some changes that may occur in the future - An obvious example being the downward movement in dose limits – which continues today with the anticipated reduction in the near future of the current eye-dose limit.

The influence of widespread personal computing and the gradual introduction of the concept of 'qualified experts' as advisers are other examples of the external influences on radiation protection. However, the focus today on 'quality systems' is not as new as might be thought – the concept was well established in the 1980s!

Going forward, changes will be influenced by ICRP publication 103 (2007) and the International Basic Safety Standard (BSS) 2011. These result in the new EU Basic Safety Standards Directive (2013/59/Euratom 05.12.2013). European Member States must progress law to implement the directive by 6th February 2018. As well as eye-dose reductions, changes are expected to the manner of recording outside worker doses, the registration or licensing regime (i.e an extension of Regulation 5 of the current IRR99), changes to Radon surveillance, retention arrangements for medical surveillance information, restrictions on non-medical imaging processes and changes to requirements for professional recognition. The changes brought about by the directive and subsequent UK legislation are expected to impact both on the current IRR and EPR Regulations.

2. The Environment Agency's Site Inspector for the University, Kate Griffith, presented an update on inspections carried out under the terms of the Environmental Permitting

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Regulations – particularly what to expect when the Inspector calls, information on inspection frequency and the recurrent issues encountered during inspection visits. Emergency preparedness appears to be a topic that the EA will pursue at future inspections and the Safety Office will consider what further central and local arrangements may need to be refined to meet the Agency's expectations.

3. Julie Dawson and Chris Titmus presented an interesting session on the use of x-ray equipment in projects organised by the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Hamilton Kerr Institute. The value of x-ray methods in non-intrusively examining and verifying museum items was particularly revealing. The particular constraints imposed by carrying out fieldwork away from 'base' was illustrated well by the example of work at Canterbury Cathedral.
4. David Plumb presented a shortened 'hot topics' session. The intention was to highlight some information received following recent inspections from the Office of Nuclear Regulation (HSE) – in terms of the transport of radioactive materials. The inspectors had highlighted the need for more pro-active audit of consignors and carriers systems and QA procedures, and the Safety Office will consider ways that this might be done – including this within the general radioactive substance audit might be one method. Changes to the 'Sub-Permit' system used by the Office – particularly for sealed sources was discussed, as was a request for any further information regarding problems with deliveries of radioactive materials from suppliers – only one incident had been reported to the Safety Office in 2013. The offer by the Director of Health and Safety to organise 12 month associate memberships of the Association of University Radiation Protection Officers for any RPS who wished this, was repeated. A further reminder was given about the EPR matrix/checklist that had also been mentioned during the presentation by the EA Inspector. Most departments were tackling the format in a good manner – the main improvement that could be advised was to be more specific regarding page/section numbers in identified documents where the arrangements to meet the specified Permit condition could be found. Some feedback from recent radiation audits carried out by the Safety Office was presented - the usual issues of training records - and provision of refresher training continues to be highlighted, as was the need to ensure that sources and source containers were properly and consistently labelled with the required i.d. information. Some confusion had been noted at x-ray audits regarding the purpose and manner of critical examinations, and a further explanation was given. Finally, some data was presented on radioactive substance use in the University. For some radionuclides – S35, P32 and Tritium, there appear to be a small year-on-year continuing increase in use.
5. The final presentation of the morning was given by Glenn Hardcastle and Craig Morrissey from AURORA Health Physics, setting out some priorities that must be addressed when tackling decommissioning of premises previously used for radioactive substance work. The importance of identifying a proper scope and end point *before* work starts was emphasised, together with the need to identify adequate resources and establish prior communication with the regulators. The possibility of existence of laboratory hazards other than radioactivity should never be underestimated!

Next Year -- 25 March 2015

Ideas and suggestions for the 2015 RPS update meeting are sought. It is anticipated that the format will follow a conventional half-day meeting, following the largely positive feedback from the meeting this year. Please forward any further ideas and requests to Lisabeth.

Other update news items

Two Day course for Radiation Protection Supervisors - 2014

RPSs are reminded that the annual two-day course will be held on the 25 and 26 June 2014, at the Department of Pharmacology, Tennis Court Road. Although the course is intended for RPSs who have recently been appointed, or 'potential' RPSs, existing RPSs who have not completed this course or who have been in post for many years are very welcome on this course! **If you have not attended this course in the past four/five years**, you really should consider registering for the course this year! The course is organised jointly with the East Anglian Regional Radiation Protection Service (Addenbrooke's Hospital), and places may be booked at the SO website. Further information is available from Lisabeth Yates. There is no course fee payable for members of the University, and refreshments and lunches are also provided.

Reminder!

The Safety Office are pleased to be able to offer a short 'road show' on instrumentation and monitoring, and bring our expertise and range of monitors to your department and discuss issues and problems with users of radioactive substances and machines. A number of Departments have already taken the opportunity to facilitate this presentation. If you think that one or more short (up to ninety minutes) sessions would be useful for users in your department, please do not hesitate to contact Lisabeth directly in order to discuss possible arrangements and to arrange suitable venues and times. Alternatively, there is some availability at a session to be held at the Safety Office on Wednesday 11th June 2014 – book via the Safety Office website.