



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Occupational Health and
Safety Service

memo

To Departmental RPSs
From Lisabeth Yates, Radiation Protection Adviser
Date 10th March 2021
Subject RPS Updates
Our Ref S/IR/21/021/LY/em

Greetings from the Radiation Team to you all – we hope you are keeping well. The team has mainly been working from home alongside (and despite) spouses, children, grandchildren, assorted pets and various other distractions. We have done our best to continue with essential services including waste collections, dosimetry services, monitor test, training courses and advice with visits to departments and sites as needed throughout the past year, and we've appreciated your patience where things have not been easy.

A warm welcome to Cambridge to staff at the MRC Toxicology Unit <https://www.mrc-tox.cam.ac.uk/> which underwent a legal transfer from MRC to the University of Cambridge in 2018 and has now physically relocated from Leicester to the Central Site. As the Safety Office lead for the various MRC transfers over recent years, I was very aware that this was not an easy transfer for various reasons (pandemic aside). All credit to Toxicology Unit staff for the work done in preparing and adapting to the new arrangements. Our appreciation also to nearby Central site departments for their collaboration and practical assistance provided to the Unit in radiation protection and other aspects of safety.

A few updates for your information:

Training:

We have been running RPS inductions on a one to one basis as normal and all ionising and non-ionising radiation courses continue to be available (bookable via the Safety Office website).

The annual **RPS update** for all RPSs will take place on the morning of Tuesday **20th April 2021** via Teams, further details to follow.

The **two day unsealed source RPS** course will be delivered this year via pre-recorded lectures in addition to live online sessions on the **mornings of 14th and 15th June 2021**. As our attempts to deliver the course last year were thwarted, we will have double the normal number of attendees and we will, as usual, prioritise RPSs who have not yet attended a course. You should receive an invitation in due course, but please save the dates in your calendar if possible and please let us know if any expected problems in attending on these dates.

On the Safety Office media collection, a few resources are available including the Amersham video which can be used as a basic refresher course for unsealed source users <https://sms.cam.ac.uk/collection/3226463>. You will need to log on with Raven password to get access to these videos.

SRP in conjunction with AURPO have been running a series of free webinars. Anyone can book by completing the online form, and one that will be relevant to all of you is Radiological Risk Assessment <https://srp-uk.org/event/272/radiological-risk-assessment> (some of you may remember Mark Bradley speaking at one of our RPS events).

AURPO is developing an online conference this year with a reduced rate for attendance. The programme will be available later this year <https://aurpo.org.uk/> and you can contact me if any questions about the programme.

Regulatory compliance:

Both HSE and EA have been actively working throughout all lockdowns and we have continued to be under the normal scrutiny of EA with regular phone calls and some online “inspections” to check Permit compliance. For these inspections, we have been required to submit sample records by email (where security allows) prior to an online meeting, and although there is no attempt to visually inspect areas, documentation has been carefully scrutinised by the inspector (perhaps more so than normal). Please ensure your records continue to be kept in good order and where there is any deviation from normal procedures, ensure you have written justification for this in the light of current circumstances. Although there is reasonable justification to postpone some tasks throughout lockdown periods, some need to be continued as far as possible and inspectors will ask to see evidence of any required checks (e.g. accountancy of sources and leak tests). As you are all aware, both HSE and EA issued regulatory position statements which outlined a conditional relaxation of certain requirements, but these position statements have not been renewed. The radiation team have tried to take a practical approach given the circumstances when responding to your questions about difficulties in compliance. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if any questions or difficulties in complying with EPR Permit conditions and safety (IRR17) requirements.

Dosimetry:

Please remember that we still have to pay for badges returned as “not used” so if work is currently on hold please put your badges on “Temporary delete”. They can be restarted at any time but please let CPRMS know before the 10th the month before they are required if possible as they have limited spare badges available. We continue to review all dosimetry results, but if you need to make any **changes** to dosimetry (ordering badges/changes to badges/adding new users etc) please **email cprms@addenbrookes.nhs.uk directly**.

Postal systems are running slightly slow at the moment – both Royal mail and UMS. If badges arrive late, please ensure users keep wearing the previous month’s dosimetry until the new ones arrive and note the date that the changeover was made to allow follow up of any doses if needed.

CPRMS are changing dosimetry supplier from April 2021 so the badges you receive will look slightly different but we are assured that there should be no significant changes. CPRMS have circulated information regarding this but please do let us know if you have questions.

Supplies of radioactive material:

Following on from reports of a few delivery related issues, we carried out a review of arrangements with Perkin Elmer and their main courier. Many thanks to all who helped us update the delivery instructions. PE and Isospeed have assured us that these instructions will be followed, but please keep us informed of any changes and any problems in future with any supplier. The effects of Brexit on deliveries of radioactive material seem to have been minor so far, but we'd be keen to hear your feedback on that as well.

Waste store:

The new radiation waste store at West Cambridge is nearing completion. We had occupied a corner of the Atlas Building for many years and some of you may be aware of the interesting history of the building (Shorts aircraft repair and later housing the Atlas 2 supercomputer) but the building is now in a sad state of disrepair. The new store is a modest but very useful facility, endorsed by EA and providing workspace for waste management and technical services. It is informally known as the "Plumb Building" with the esteemed Mr Plumb (previous RPA) hopefully attending to cut the "ribbon" when lockdown eases (and yes, that would be inappropriate use of radioactive tape).

We look forward to seeing you at the RPS update on 20th April 2021.

Yours sincerely

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