



## Dosimetry Online – User Survey, 2013

Last year we carried out a survey of customers who use our 'Dosimetry Online' extranet (DOL).

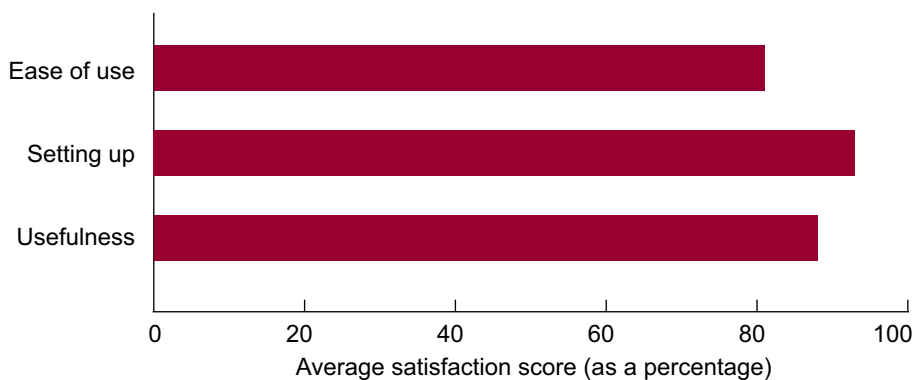
DOL allows users to:

- view dose results and dose totals
- view previous dose reports
- view and change orders
- submit record-keeping registration details
- view useful information
- send messages to us

Many thanks to all those customers who responded. Space did not allow us to report on the DOL survey in the last issue of *Monitor* (not to be confused with the general customer survey we reported on then). But we thought you would still like to know the outcomes.

Users were asked to give a score between 1 (bad) and 5 (good) for each of these. The average scores came out at 4.1 out of 5 for ease of use, 4.6 out of 5 for setting up and 4.4 out of 5 for usefulness, and are shown in the figure as percentage values.

These good scores are reassuring, although there is always room for improvement. Users were also able to make suggestions, and as a result we were able to put together a 'useful tips' article, which appeared in the last issue of *Monitor*. We have added some of the other suggestions to our list of planned modifications.



The three main questions we asked were about:

- how easy it is to use DOL
- how smooth the setting-up process is
- how useful DOL is

Although the survey is now closed, we always welcome feedback and suggestions. You can either send us a message through DOL, or email us at

[doserecords@phe.gov.uk](mailto:doserecords@phe.gov.uk)

## Irish National Dose Return

### Reminder

We are starting to contact our customers based in Ireland to collect your worker details for the 2013 dose data return that we are required to pass to the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) on your behalf each July.

Please look out for the email or letter and respond as soon as you can.

If you have any queries, please email

[nicky.gibbens@phe.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.gibbens@phe.gov.uk)

*Many thanks*

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## New European Safety Standards Published

On 5 December last year, the Council of the European Union issued a new directive 'laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation'. This will result in new UK legislation by 2018, resulting in minor changes for most users, but major changes for some.

The new directive, 2013/59/Euratom, can be found online at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm> (search for 'Directive', with a year of 2013 and a number of 59). It repeals a number earlier directives on related topics, eg for protection of workers, for medical exposures, and for emergency exposures, replacing them with an integrated set of requirements. It also updates standards in the light of the 2007 recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP report 103 – see <http://www.icrp.org/publications.asp>).

In terms of protection of workers, the main change is in the reduction of the annual dose limit for the lens of the eye. Whereas the current dose limit is 150 millisieverts (mSv) in a calendar year, the directive specifies a new limit of 20 mSv a year (or 100 mSv in five years, with a single-year maximum of 50 mSv). See *Monitor*, issue 42, November 2012.

For a small number of applications, eg in interventional radiology, meeting the new limit may require some employers to make changes to current practice. Another change affects the assessment of doses to workers and the public from radon gas and its decay products; however, further changes in radon dosimetry are expected before the directive is cast into UK law. Watch this space for developments.

Responsibility for implementing the new directive falls on the member states' regulatory authorities. In the UK, extensive stakeholder consultations have been carried out over the last few years in order to provide input into the directive. Now that it has been published, the relevant authorities (including the Health and Safety Executive and the Department of Health) will begin further consultations about the details of the new regulations, and about the associated approved code of practice and guidance.

## New Web Pages for the PHE Personal Dosimetry Service

PDS has joined our other PHE radiation protection services on

<https://www.phe-protectionservices.org.uk>

Visit the site to find information about:

- personal dosimetry service
- radiation protection adviser services
- radon measurement services
- dental X-ray protection services
- instrument testing services
- non-ionising radiation services
- radiation safety training for the workplace
- training for radiological protection professionals
- radiochemistry services
- and more

***Tell your friends!***

## Welcome, Aimee

Aimee Gothard has joined our team in February, working in the dosimeter logistics office, sending and receiving all of your dosimeters. Aimee replaces Nicola Gregory who moved to another post within PHE.

***Good luck to both of them in their new posts!***

## Damaged Dosemeters

Although this is a serious business for us, here is a light-hearted look at what happens to our dosemeters when they are out in the field. In past issues of *Monitor* we have shown pictures of laundered dosemeters. Laundering or exposure to chemicals can result in dosemeters' barcodes being removed or partially removed, as shown to the right.

We sometimes also see staining, from residual chemicals on the dosemeter. This is our most common cause of damage, but we do see more inventive damage!

We have received dosemeters that have been run over by a lawnmower, put through a shredder (at least half way through) and even

one that we were told had been through a cow. The photographs below show dosemeters that have been bent or chewed by a dog, and a classic case of a bored person poking an implement through the open window on the holder, causing the dent seen on the wrapper. This could also damage

the sensitive element that lies behind the window. See if you can work out which is which.

We realise that some damage is inevitable when we send out so many dosemeters, but if you could remind all staff to take as much care as possible this would be much appreciated.



## HSE Web Community for Radiation

The Health and Safety Executive has set up a new web community for radiation. The community has been established to share information on the regulation of work with ionising and non-ionising radiation. It is aimed at employers and other duty-holders, radiation protection advisers and other experts providing advice on the regulation of work with radiation.

To join, go to <http://webcommunities.hse.gov.uk/connect.ti/radiationcom/grouphome> and click the 'join this community' link.

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## Prices from April 2014

Listed below are our prices effective from 1 April 2014. The prices listed do not include any discount at this stage. Prices decrease as quantities increase and many of our existing customers pay **less** than these prices.

For example, if you are receiving four TLDs every four weeks then your annual quantity is 52, which takes you into the first discount band. Discounts are calculated automatically by our system, which means there is no need to 'claim' them.

Dosemeter*	Wear period	£ (each)	
TLD	2 and 4 weekly	5.80	<b>Customer-specific investigation level</b> at £12.85 per notification
TLD	8 weekly	6.50	
TLD	13 weekly	7.35	
<b>Extremity</b>			
Stall	All	7.65	
Ring	All	9.00	
<b>Neutron PADC and Radon</b>	All weekly	32.75	

\* Orders are subject to a minimum order charge of £60.

	£ (each)
Unreturned TLDs	24.00
Unreturned Extremities	24.00
<b>Dose Record Keeping (using PHE dosimeters)</b>	
Initial registration fee (covering a minimum of 12 months)	29.95
Renewal fee for subsequent years (prices decrease with quantity discounts)	17.80
<b>Dose Record Keeping (not using PHE dosimeters)</b>	
Initial registration fee (covering a minimum of 12 months)	119.60
Renewal fee for subsequent years	95.50
Special Entries to Dose Records (first two entries per year are free)	7.20
<b>Radiation Passbooks</b>	
Next working day despatch	25.65
Standard despatch	16.05

All prices are applicable to European delivery addresses and exclude VAT, which will be added to charges where applicable. All supplies are subject to PHE terms and conditions.

## Getting Connected to the Personal Dosimetry Service (PDS)

Telephone	Prefix +44(0)1235	Prefix +44(0)1235 (unless*)
Dr Phil Gilvin, Manager	825333	Sean Baker, Laboratory Manager 825349
Lyn Pike, Deputy (Commercial)	825343	Dosemeter logistics office 825339
Nicky Gibbens, Deputy (Technical)	825334	Dose records office 825230
Customer services team (calls are rotated)	825240	Laboratories
		TLD and extremity 825353
		Neutron (Leeds)* +44(0)113 267 9041
Fax		Email
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