



Transit Controls

Transit controls are dosimeters that are used to indicate whether a package of dosimeters has been irradiated on its way between PHE and the customer. Some X-ray units can deliver doses of a few millisieverts (mSv), and if no action is taken this can cause false doses to appear on workers' dose records. There are two ways in which this can happen.

The first is where your company, or the client for whom your staff are working, uses a security scanner for incoming mail.

In these cases, there are measures we can take to avoid exposure (signed-for or courier delivery, or using a PO box), but it is often useful to take the precaution of having an extra dosimeter – **a transit control**.

Because the risk of irradiation is mainly on the outward journey to the customer, it is possible to send the transit control dosimeter straight back to us, so that you find out very quickly whether there is a problem. In this case we issue **assigned transit controls**, which are already in a return envelope that you can put straight back in the post when you receive your consignment.

When assigned transit controls are read on our system, any that show a dose of more than 0.1 mSv cause an alert. We will tell you straight away, and discuss the best course of action.

The second way is where staff are working abroad.

The dosimeters will probably be flown to their destination, and they may be subject to airport security X-ray scans on the way. (Please note that hand baggage scanners at airports give smaller doses than hold luggage scanners. The dose from a single pass through a hand baggage scanner is hardly big enough to register on a dosimeter.)

In such cases:

- irradiation could take place several times during the dosimeter's life cycle
- the doses are usually small, but cumulative
- the dose may turn out to be insignificant
- if different workers are travelling to different destinations, more than one transit control may be needed

These **ad-hoc transit controls** must accompany the workers'

own dosimeters at all times on the journey, but must be kept in a safe place, away from any radiation sources, while the work is being done.

If a dose shows on the transit dosimeters, this can be subtracted from the workers' results to leave the true occupational dose.

Doses on ad-hoc transit controls do not result in a laboratory alert.

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Concurrent Employments

We are sometimes asked about how to deal with situations in which a worker has more than one radiation employer. How can we make sure their dose records are complete and accurate?

Unfortunately, there is no universal answer to this question. The over-riding requirement is that the two (or more) radiation employers must co-operate – see regulation 15 of the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99). Put simply, employers who do not co-operate to ensure that the regulations are complied with, are in breach of regulation 15.

The official guidance issued with IRR99 (see www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l121.pdf) specifically states that:

“Where an employee has several employers, those employers may need to co-operate to ensure that dose limits are applied to the total dose received by the worker. For example, in the health sector there are several groups

of personnel (such as cardiologists) who may have multiple employers (eg an NHS trust and one or more private hospitals) or who may act in a self-employed capacity for some of the year. It is important for employers to share information on the total dose received otherwise they will have difficulties in making the correct decisions on the need for classification and ensuring compliance with relevant dose limits.”

Clearly, where dose records (and radiation passbooks for outside workers) are concerned, the employers will need to involve the approved dosimetry service(s) in discussions. One option is to agree that a single dose record be kept to cover all exposures.

In such cases, arrangements need to be made to ensure that all assessed doses reach that dose record. Other matters to consider are:

- whether a subsidiary record (or records) should be kept, to make it clear in which employment any doses were received
- whether the worker should wear an extra dosimeter all the time, covering all exposures; or whether to rely on separate dosimeters at each employment
- the need to make sure that HSE’s Central Index of Dose Information (CIDI) gets one and only one set of data for the worker

If you need advice or would like to discuss such a situation, please contact us at doserecords@phe.gov.uk.

CC Those E-mails ...

When contacting any service provider, it’s always good to make contact with someone you know, especially if they’ve been helpful before.

In the Personal Dosimetry Service, therefore, we encourage customers to build working relationships with individual members of our teams. However, sometimes the person you normally deal with is unavailable; and for this reason we have general group email addresses that are continually monitored, namely personaldosimetry@phe.gov.uk and doserecords@phe.gov.uk (see *Getting Connected* on page 4). So it’s a good idea always to ‘CC’ your email to one of those addresses, or at least to another individual within PDS.

This way, you’ll be sure to get a prompt response even if the person you normally deal with is unavailable.

E-reporting

You should all have recently received your dose summaries for 2014. Many of you are already sent these summaries electronically by email. This means you have your reports more quickly. It also helps us to meet our environmental policy target on reducing the paper usage at PHE.

If you would like to switch from paper to email reports, please contact us at

doserecords@phe.gov.uk

RTJZ-LBAC-XXTK FREEPOST Address

Some of you may have noticed that our Royal Mail FREEPOST code has changed and a new barcode has been added. This helps Royal Mail use more automated equipment to send and monitor our packages. We have had all our green envelopes printed with this new code and barcode but you can also use the code to send back ad-hoc dosimeter returns (eg late returns) by writing the code on to any padded envelope.

Meet the Teams

We are the largest personal dosimetry service in the UK and one of the largest in Europe.

The service issues approximately 7,000 body TLDs and 600 extremity TLDs each week, covering about 65,000 and 2,500 wearers, respectively.

The laboratories team

We are the people who issue all your personal dosimeters, whether you have whole-body TLD badges, extremity fingerstalls, rings or headbands for eye dosimetry.

Then, after you have used the dosimeter for the allotted time period, we are the people who process them in our laboratories and obtain the results that you see on your dose report.

We also issue the neutron and radon dosimeters, but these go back to our PHE CRCE colleagues in Leeds for processing.

Going from left to right we are:

Victoria Hannington, who has been with the Personal Dosimetry Service for six years, two in the dosimeter logistics office and four in the dosimetry laboratories

Sean Baker, who has been the PDS laboratories manager for the past 12 years

Ros McIntyre, who has been with PDS for three years; she was previously in the procurement team

Melanie King, who has been the PDS laboratories supervisor for the last four years and was previously in the radon group

Lin Bettles, who has spent the last 21 years in the PDS laboratories but has now retired. We would like to thank Lin for all her hard work over the years.

We are a dedicated team who are happy to help with technical queries about processing dosimeters or obtaining doses etc (for other queries please contact our customer service office or dose records office). All our contact details are shown in this issue of *Monitor* (see *Getting Connected* on page 4).



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E: personaldosimetry@phe.gov.uk

www.phe-protectionservices.org.uk/pds

Prices from April 2015

Listed below are our prices effective from 1 April 2015. 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	5.95	Customer-specific investigation level at £13.18 per notification
TLD	8 weekly	6.65	
TLD	13 weekly	7.52	
Extremity			
Stall	All	7.85	
Ring	All	9.22	
Neutron PADC and Radon	All weekly	33.56	

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

	£ (each)
Unreturned TLDs	24.00
Unreturned Extremities	24.00
Dose Record Keeping (using PHE dosimeters)	
Initial registration fee (covering a minimum of 12 months)	30.70
Renewal fee for subsequent years (prices decrease with quantity discounts)	18.25
Dose Record Keeping (not using PHE dosimeters)	
Initial registration fee (covering a minimum of 12 months)	122.60
Renewal fee for subsequent years	97.90
Special Entries to Dose Records (first two entries per year are free)	7.40
Radiation Passbooks	
Next working day despatch	26.30
Standard despatch	16.45

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	
General PDS	825563	General PDS	personaldosimetry@phe.gov.uk
General customer services	825564	Dose records office	doserecords@phe.gov.uk