



Public Health
England

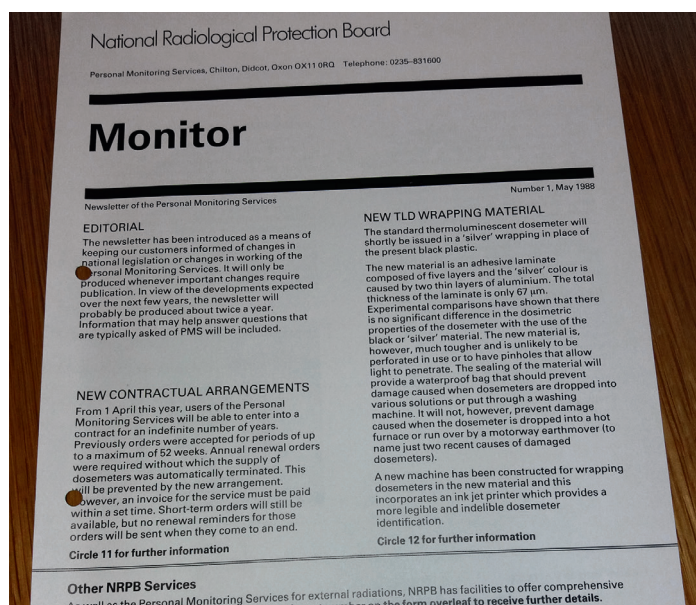
Monitor

Protecting and improving
the nation's health

Newsletter of the Personal Dosimetry Service
November 2018 Issue 54

Happy 30th Birthday Monitor

The first issue of Monitor was sent out to customers in May 1988, so our November issue marks a 30 year anniversary of our newsletter. As you can see, it has moved on – now in colour and doubled in size!



Goodbye & Good Luck!

Since our last edition we have seen some changes in staff; saying goodbye to Melanie King (Lab Supervisor) and Lyn Pike (Deputy Manager, Commercial). Lyn worked at Chilton during the NRPB, HPA and PHE times and her wealth of knowledge and experience of our customers will be missed. She headed our Customer Services team for over 20 years. Many of you will have met, or spoken to, Lyn at exhibitions and visits or on the phone. We wish both the best in their new ventures; including Lyn, a very happy semi-retirement.

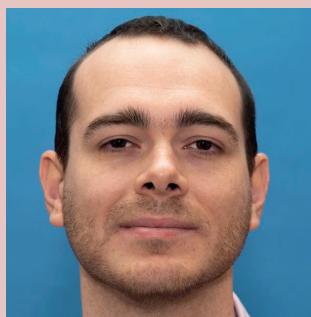


Welcome to PDS

Since April, we have welcomed Sue Mitchell into our Labs as a Technician; Liz Johnston into our Dose Records Office and Flavio Jose as our Technical Development Manager. Flavio has already been out at the AURPO and MPEC exhibitions, meeting our customers (see pg 4). He will be helping our team on various new projects over the coming months.



We would also like to announce Victoria Herbert as our new Laboratory Supervisor. Vicky has worked within the PDS group for over 9 years and has a wealth of experience of the Labs here at Chilton. Congratulations on your new post!



Also in this issue

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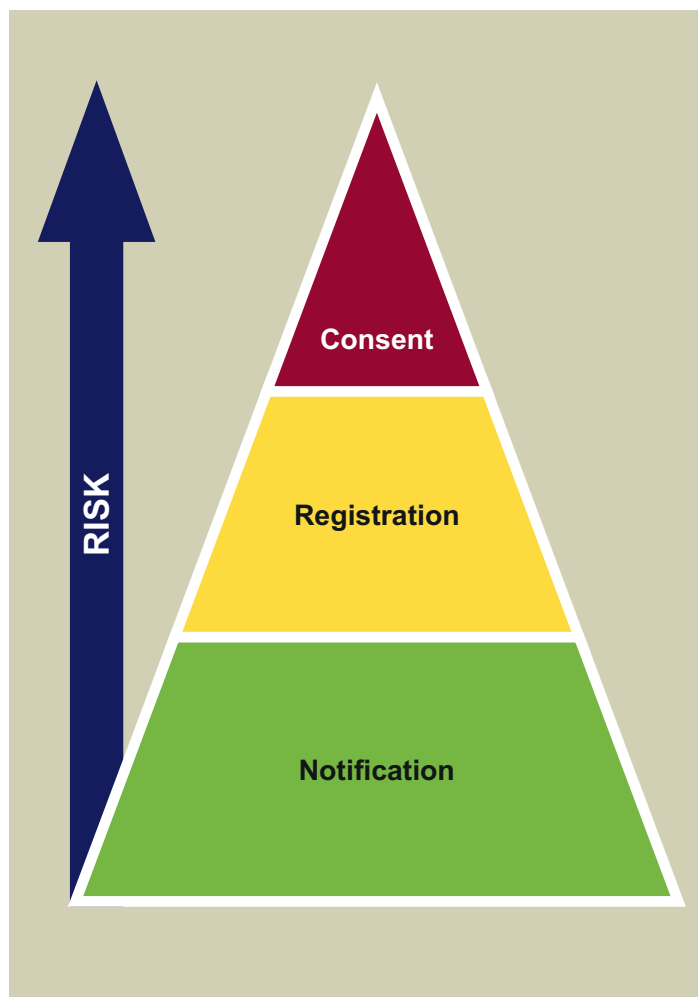
Getting Connected

The Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17)

- a tiered approach to HSE notification

By now, you should be aware of the revised Ionising Radiation Regulations that came into force at the beginning of 2018. The Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 are similar to the previous Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99), although the terminology has been modernised and some of the previous requirements given more emphasis, for instance the rehearsal of contingency arrangements.

However a small number of new requirements have been introduced and the most significant one is the requirement for employers to notify, register, or obtain consent from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for work with ionising radiation. Currently there are still employers who have not yet made an on-line application to HSE under this three-tier system. This may be due to difficulty in understanding the technical details to identify the 'HSE notification category' applicable to their work with ionising radiation, a matter that their Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA) can assist with.



This is a risk based approach and work with ionising radiation posing the lowest level of risk requires notification. Employers who intend to initiate work or who are already working with ionising radiation are required to notify under this system even if they have already notified HSE under the previous regulations. This includes work with artificial radionuclides or natural occurring radioactive materials within activity concentration values specified in IRR17. Moreover employers carrying out work in an atmosphere where the annual average concentration of radon-222 gas is greater than 300 Bq/m³ also come within this category of notification. It is pertinent to mention that any work involving X-rays, for instance dental or veterinary radiography, is not eligible for notification; instead, it requires registration, at the least.

Any new or existing work with ionising radiation involving a medium level of risk requires a registration under IRR17. The vast majority of the ionising radiation applications fall into this category. This includes diagnostic radiology and dental X-ray units, veterinary X-ray units, X-ray based analytical equipment, X-ray security scanners and similar. Furthermore, depending on the type and activity concentration of the radionuclides, work with sealed sources may also be required to be registered with the HSE.

Those involved with ionising radiation in the highest risk based practices must obtain consent from HSE in order to carry out such work. This includes, administration of radionuclides to persons and animals, the exploitation and closure of uranium mines, the deliberate addition of radioactive material in consumer products (smoke detectors etc.) or other products, particle accelerators, industrial radiography, industrial irradiation, work with high activity sealed sources, operation and decommissioning of a long term radioactive material storage or waste disposal facility and practices discharging significant amounts of radioactive material into the environment.

During the application process, the company will need to confirm that they have the appropriate arrangements in place to work safely, in compliance with the regulations. This entails the need for a comprehensive risk assessment which should consider all reasonably foreseeable risk elements and all the possible actions to minimise or eliminate the likelihood of an identified radiation incident or accident. In addition to this, information regarding the arrangements for suitable radiation protection training of workers, the development and implementation of policies and procedures, details of safety and warning features and consultation with a suitable RPA will also be required.

Further information can be found at <https://services.hse.gov.uk/bssd/>

Radiation Metrology's Instrument Testing Service

Do you need a fast, efficient radiation instrument testing service, where you can be assured the tests satisfy or exceed regulatory requirements, national guidance and best practice?

Established in 1975, PHE's radiation facilities are the most comprehensive in the UK and are directly traceable to national and international standards. We offer a high quality service for the regulatory testing of a wide variety of monitors, which include dose and dose rate monitors, contamination monitors as well as active and passive personal dosimeters.

Our bespoke radiation facilities include a suite of gamma, x-ray, neutron and beta dose rate radiation facilities as well as a large selection of contamination reference sources and a radon chamber. For large numbers of contamination monitors we may even be able to offer an on-site calibration service at your premises. We hold ISO 17025 UKAS accreditation for a selection of PHE facilities.

We maintain an extensive range of common instrument parts in stock, which means we can often repair your instrument quickly and efficiently if it is broken or fails the test. For more complex repairs we partner with the manufacturer or other experienced providers.

We can also provide high quality training - our 'RPTS Selection, Use and Testing of Radiological Protection Instrumentation' course is designed for everyone with responsibility for advising on radiation protection instrumentation. This four-day course provides in-depth, theoretical and practical understanding of the subject. For more details visit:

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

We have established an enviable international reputation as a leading source of expertise and innovation in the fields of type-testing, instrument development, lead equivalency and design consultancy. These services are intended to assist manufacturers, importers and end-users in demonstrating that their equipment satisfies the requirements of the International Electro-technical Commission (IEC) and other major international bodies.

For more information about any of our Radiation Metrology services please visit

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

For any instrument testing enquiries please email us on rad.met@phe.gov.uk or call us on **01235 825324** and we will be happy to help.

Biohazard Bags

We have noticed that some customers are sending back their dosimeters in Biohazard bags. It is often the case that the dosimeters have just been placed in these bags to keep them all together but, by definition, a biohazard is "a potential danger, risk, or harm from exposure to such an agent or condition". Therefore if we receive dosimeters in these bags, we are not able to open the bag until we have received confirmation from the customer that the bag does not contain a biohazard.

We would therefore like to request that customers refrain from using these bags, unless completely necessary, and to only use clear bags or place straight into the green envelope provided. This will ensure we can process the dosimeters without delay, and you will receive your dose reports quickly.



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Association of University Radiation Protection Officers (AURPO) Annual Meeting 2018

In September AURPO held its annual meeting at the University of Leicester, at the John Foster Conference Centre in the leafy student village in Oadby. Coming mainly from universities and other institutions related to training of undergraduate and graduate personnel, the principal aim of AURPO is to increase the understanding of radiation protection. It was founded in 1962 and covers both ionising and non-ionising radiation topics in its work.

This year's event was attended by ninety delegates representing over forty institutions including universities and other research organisations from the healthcare and private sectors. Speakers from a range of organisations gave lectures covering, amongst other topics, non-ionising radiations, experience with the new Ionising Radiations Regulations (2017) and radiation emergencies. The meeting was supported by approximately fifteen sponsoring suppliers, and a lively exhibition space provided for discussions during coffee and lunch breaks.

The Personal Dosimetry Service was represented by Phil Gilvin and Flavio Jose; also present from Public Health England Chilton were Tim Daniels, Nigel Cridland and Jonathan Eakins. Nigel lectured twice in the first day, about the conduct of EMF surveys and on classification of self-assembled laser systems, while Jonathan gave an interesting presentation on positron dosimetry.



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