

INFORMATION FOR USE OF RADIATION DOSIMETERS

Radiation dosimeters (also called badges) are provided by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) to monitor your exposure to external sources of ionizing radiation. All dosimeters, used or unused, are collected on the 1st of every other month and returned to the vendor for processing and evaluation.

The University of New Hampshire is required to maintain accurate and complete radiation dose reports for all registered radiation workers. These records are located in the EH&S office in Perpetuity Hall.

IF AN UNUSUAL EXPOSURE IS RECORDED on the dosimeter, this office must conduct and document an investigation of its cause. The wearer will be asked to describe his/her use of radioactive materials for the time period in question and speculate on the cause of the exposure. If there is no known reason for the exposure, it should be so stated on the questionnaire.

IF A DOSIMETER IS LOST, a written report is required from the worker explaining: 1) how the dosimeter was lost or damaged, 2) means to be taken to prevent lost dosimeters in the future. 3) a summary of use of source(s) of ionizing radiation for the period monitored by the lost dosimeter, and 4) an assessment of the probable dose during that period. It is simpler to return the dosimeter in a timely fashion and in good condition.

DELAYS IN DOSIMETER RETURNS CANNOT BE TOLERATED. Charges are levied by the processor for late or lost dosimeters. These charges are not passed on to the user, however, your cooperation is necessary if this policy is to continue.

Please observe the following practices:

- Always wear your dosimeter(s) when working with or near radionuclides or other sources of ionizing radiation.
- When not in use, keep dosimeters in the agreed upon central location where they can be easily located and exchanged. This location should be far enough from the sources of radiation to prevent irradiation of the dosimeter when not in use.
- Do not wear your dosimeter home. They are intended to measure your occupational dose received at UNH. Bringing it home also increases the possibility of loss or damage particularly in the washing machine and dryer.
- If for some reason, your dosimeter cannot be found during collection, please bring it to EH&S at your earliest convenience, or inform EH&S of its loss. Otherwise the dosimeter shipment will be delayed and surcharges from the processor could result.
- If there is a possibility of an unusual exposure to your dosimeter or it has been damaged, please notify EH&S in advance.
- On completion of your work with radionuclides, please notify this office so your dosimeter can be discontinued.

For your comfort, TLD ring “badges” are available in three sizes. Unless otherwise directed, the first ring will be ordered in a size medium. If you need a large or small size ring, contact this office.

If you have any questions or would like to view your records, please call the Radiation Safety Officer at 862-3607.