



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving  
The Life of All Minnesotans



**JULY 2008**

**Radiation Control, X-ray Unit**  
**Minnesota Department of Health**  
**625 Robert Street North**  
**PO Box 64975**  
**St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975**

Phone: 651-201-4545

Fax: 651-201-4606

Website: [www.health.state.mn.us/xray](http://www.health.state.mn.us/xray)

Email: [x-ray@health.state.mn.us](mailto:x-ray@health.state.mn.us)

## Email address change

To ensure that all state departments have the same email address extension, all Department of Health email addresses will change to `firstname.lastname@state.mn.us` (health removed) effective by December 2008. As of today, both email addresses work for most addresses, the exception being our general email address above.

## Online Registrations

Because the x-ray unit went from a biennial to an annual registration, the volume of paperwork will be increasing. Sending registrations through email and offering online payment should be implemented by the end of the year. At this time, if you would prefer your registrations sent by email rather than mail, email your request to [x-ray@health.state.mn.us](mailto:x-ray@health.state.mn.us). Whether making a payment online or sending a check by mail, your registration certificate will continue to be sent by mail. We will post periodic updates on our progress in upcoming bulletins.

## Shipped x-ray equipment

Several vendors ship x-ray equipment that can be simply plugged in and operated. Usually this equipment has some testing performed before it leaves the vendor or manufacturing facility. This testing is not acceptable as an initial calibration. All equipment that is purchased and installed as part of a radiation program needs to have the tests that pertain to that equipment performed prior to its use. A few examples are: screen contact/speed match tests for new cassettes, x-ray unit performance calibration, lead tests for new aprons, etc.

## RSO Delegation Agreement

A Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) Delegation Agreement must be kept on file for all registered Facilities where the registrant is not the RSO:

- Agreement is available on our website, Radiation Safety Officer page, or create your own
- After completed, file in your facilities manual
- If you haven't already notified MDH of your designated RSO, download the Change of Facility information form on our Registration Forms page and fax or mail to us
- Keep us informed of any changes to your RSO

Bulletins are transmitted electronically. This decreases printing and postage costs and it helps to keep your fees as low as possible. If you would like to receive these bulletins by email, please submit your request to [Kelly.Sabanjo@state.mn.us](mailto:Kelly.Sabanjo@state.mn.us).

Thank you!



## How to perform a Fog Test

A common violation inspectors see is improperly done fog tests. The problem is usually not pre-exposing the film before performing the test:

- The film needs to be exposed to a density of 1.0 (can barely read print through it) before the test can be performed.
- Cover half the film in the darkroom and wait 2 minutes before running through.
- Dental clinics that use a stepwedge, cover half your normal daily stepwedge for 2 minutes.



Chapter 4732 is available at the Minnesota Bookstore for \$13.95 plus shipping and tax .  
Call 651-297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757 or order online at [www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/bookstore.asp](http://www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/bookstore.asp)

## Buying/Selling a facility

If you have purchased a facility registered with MDH, please keep in mind that the X-ray set-up may not be legal.

Rule 4730 was adopted in 1991. Facilities that were in existence before 1991 were “grandfathered” in. However, when the practice is sold, the new owner is under whatever rule for equipment set-up that was in effect at the time of the sale. This includes equipment set-up and shielding plans. For example, if a facility was purchased in 2005, it would have fallen under rule 4730. If a facility was purchased in 2008, it falls under rule 4732.

Inspectors are finding violations of the rule that was in existence when the facility was purchased. This creates problems for the new facilities trying to come into compliance. If you are selling your practice, please provide the new owner with your shielding plan. Shielding plans can be reviewed by the MDH for compliance for the new owners. Rule 4732.0355 covers shielding requirements and can be viewed on our website.

## X-ray Operator Exam Statistics

The Limited Scope Operator exam has been in effect since Jan. 1, 2008, and the six month statistics from ARRT indicate that Minnesota examinees are doing better than the national average.

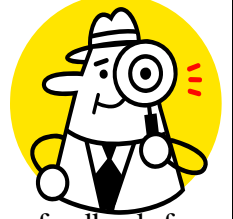
For states, including MN, who require a 70% passing rate for the core and each module:

- Core - National average 53%, MN 75%
- Positioning Modules - National average 40-60%, MN 53-69%

There are resources listed on the MDH website on the X-ray Operator page for classes, home study course websites and educational books to help examinees prepare for the exam. Information regarding the exam process, as well as the application, are also listed there. Available locations to take the exam and who to contact to make an appointment are provided by ARRT after fees are paid.

If the examinee has not tested within 90 days of ARRT approval, he/she will need to resubmit an application, NO EXCEPTIONS. Visit our website for more information at [www.health.state.mn.us/xray](http://www.health.state.mn.us/xray), click on X-ray Operators.

## Inspector's Corner



### Inspection Feedback

The MDH X-ray Unit is looking at the overall inspection process to improve efficiency. We are seeking feedback from registrants who have been inspected in the last two years. What did you think went well with the inspection process and what would you suggest could be improved? Responses can be sent via mail or email. Thank you in advance!

### Facilities that rarely process films

It is difficult to maintain passing sensitometry for processors that are not operated at least daily. For these facilities, please consider:

- Running one or two cleaning films through per day to help keep your chemistry mixed and maintain it's strength. For this purpose, do not use films that have already been processed, as they contain small amounts of fixer and will contaminate your developer solution. Use cleaning films sold by film manufacturers or undeveloped x-ray film.
- If the sensitometry fails on the first try, try running the test one or two more times before deciding to empty out your processor and refill everything.
- If you process only a couple of films per month or year, it may be a good idea to empty the processor between days it is used. If you choose this option, be sure to document when the processor is taken out of service on your sensitometry log. Instead of discarding these chemicals, you could store this used chemistry in a bottle separate from your fresh chemistry between uses. Be sure to do sensitometry testing on it when you refill your processor to develop patient films. By doing this, you should be able to maintain some strength to that barely used chemistry and not contaminate your fresh chemicals that are used for replenishment.

## Our website is a great resource!

- Radiation Safety Officer page
- X-ray Operator page
- Quality Control procedures
- Registration Forms
- 4732 Information: Bulletins, Sample Forms and Information Notices