



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving
The Life of All Minnesotans



SEPTEMBER 2008

Radiation Control, X-ray Unit
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Email Address Change

Effective September 2008, all State of Minnesota email addresses, including the Department of Health, will change to firstname.lastname@state.mn.us (health removed). As of today, both email addresses work for most addresses, the exception being our general email address above.

ARRT certification from other states

For people who have an ARRT certification from other states, you do not have to take the Limited Scope X-ray Operator test to take x-rays. The ARRT certification is accepted in all states, regardless of what state you are currently employed in. Other people who are exempt from taking the test include: Veterinarian employees, employees at Chiropractic facilities who tested under the Chiropractic RT Exam, certified Nuclear Med Techs doing PET/SPECT CT, and RT's who took the ARRT national exam.

Annual Registration packet changes

For those of you who have received our Annual Registration packet in the past, you will notice some changes. Because we're trying diligently to cut costs, the packet will be condensed. From now on, the equipment inventory will not include serial numbers. Be sure to verify that everything is correct. If you do see mistakes, make changes to the list and return with your payment.

Mammography

Tom Garvin, longtime FDA coordinator for the MQSA program, retired August 15, 2008 after 31 years with the FDA. MQSA matters are now being handled by Rachel Evans at (312) 596-6518. MDH has long appreciated Tom's service and dedication, and wish him well in his retirement.

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.

Thank you!



Annual Registrations and your Accounts Payable department

Please be sure to alert your Accounts Payable departments to our new annual schedule for registrations. We have received numerous Annual Registration payments for double the amount due, even though it clearly states on the invoice how much is actually due. We believe this is, in part, because facilities accounts payable departments are programmed to pay the amount that was due with the biennial cycle. Registrations will be delayed for facilities with payments made in the incorrect amount and all paperwork will be returned, so please be sure to verify the correct amount due on your invoice.



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

CT and Medical Devices

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued a notification that the x-rays used during CT exams on patients with medical devices could encounter problems. A small number of adverse reactions have been reported, including: malfunctioning of the device itself, misinterpretation of signals produced by the x-rays as actual biological signals, missed detection of actual biological signals and the reprogramming of device settings. Whenever possible, facilities should ask the patient to move the device out of the radiation field if it is external. Some implanted devices may be able to be turned off for a short time.

After any CT exam, the facility should check that the device is working properly and give instructions to the patient advising them to contact their health care provider if they suspect the device is not working properly. The entire alert, dated July 14, 2008, can be viewed by going to <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety.html>.

Sensitometers/Densitometers

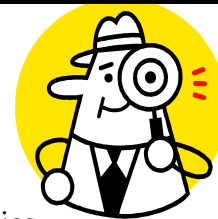
MDH has been asked about the older X-rite sensitometers and densitometers. The company that makes them has new models out, and therefore, is not supporting the older models. For facilities with the older models, you do not have to purchase the new models at this time. Accurad is a local company that still calibrates them, and can be contacted at (612) 940-9809.

Service Provider registration renewals

Service Providers who registered last November will be asked to re-register with MDH sometime this October. We will mail all currently registered Service Providers a renewal packet, and once registered, new registration cards. You will receive your registration packet one month before your current registration card end date. If you do not receive a packet, be sure to give us a call. Expired registration cards are not valid, and should not be accepted by facilities at time of service.

All facilities should ask for proof of MDH registration by asking to see their Service Providers' registration card. Application forms are available on our website, click on Service Providers.

Inspector's Corner



Individual Monitoring (Film Badges)

MDH has been made aware of conflicts that have confused facilities between OSHA and MDH rules regarding ionizing radiation. 4732.0440 states that employers must provide individual monitoring devices for individuals, who are likely to receive in one year, a dose in excess of 10% of occupational limits (4732.0410), which is 5 rem. This translates to 500 mrem annual exposure for an occupational worker **before** that worker is required to wear a dosimetry device, commonly known as a film badge. OSHA regulations, 1910.1096 (d)(2)(i) require individual monitoring devices if a worker is likely to receive a dose in excess of 25% of 5 rem per year or 1.25 rem per quarter.

MN regulations are more stringent than the federal standards for ionizing radiation. 4732 adopted the NRC level of 10% to be consistent for those facilities that had x-ray and radioactive materials. Several groups have had traditionally low exposure rates that put them well below the 10% level, these include Dentists, Veterinarians and Chiropractors. If you are wondering about your facility, you can either badge all workers for one quarter or purchase an area badge (with a control badge) and monitor the levels inside an x-ray room. The limits for a pregnant worker are very low. If a woman declares her pregnancy and she will be taking x-rays or involved (holding patients or animals) with radiation, she will need a baby badge.

Our website is a great resource!

- Radiation Safety Officer page
- X-ray Operator page
- Service Provider page
- Screening page
- Shielding page
- Quality Control procedures
- Registration Forms
- Publications page: Past Bulletins and Information Notices
- 4732 Information page: Minnesota Rule Chapter 4732, sample documents and 4732 training presentations for those who missed the presentations last year