

RADIOLOGICAL COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DISPOSAL OF OLD SMOKE DETECTORS CONTAINING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

At the 84th Meeting on 17 December 1992, the Radiological Council of WA approved the following disposal methods:

DETECTORS WITH UP TO 1 μ Ci (40 kBq) AMERICIUM-241

- disposal of individual (single or a few) devices to municipal rubbish tips via normal household rubbish.
- disposal of larger quantities (several or many devices) to the Mt Walton East site via Radiation Health Section.

DETECTORS WITH MORE THAN 1 μ Ci (40 kBq) AMERICIUM-241 OR ANY QUANTITIES OF OTHER RADIOISOTOPES:

- disposal to the Mt Walton East disposal site via Radiation Health Section.

Note: Small source ($\leq 1\mu$ Ci Am-241) smoke detectors which conform to AS 3786-1993 or AS 1603.2-1990 are now exempt from control under the Radiation Safety Act for the purposes of sale, installation, use or storage of up to 2500 devices.

Older model smoke detectors with more than 6 μ Ci Am-241 or any quantities of other radioisotopes are now subject to a recall by the Radiological Council.

μ Ci = microcurie
kBq = kilobecquerel
Am-241 = americium-241