



RADIATION SAFETY ACT

Responsibilities of the Registrant Fact Sheet

Regulations 18 and 19 of the Radiation Safety (General) Regulations provide the responsibilities that are directly relevant to the **registrant**. In particular, your attention is drawn to the items outlined in this fact sheet. Complete sets of legislation are available from the State Law Publisher, www.slp.wa.gov.au.

The “registrant” is the person (or persons) in whose name a certificate of registration has been issued by the Radiological Council as the ‘owner’ for particular premises and prescribed x-ray equipment, radioactive substances and/or electronic products.

For large organisations, the registrant may be a person holding a specified position (eg Manager, Registered Manager, Chief Executive Officer, Director of Medical Services, Head of Department, etc). For businesses or companies, the business partners or company directors may be the joint registrant.

Each registrant under the Radiation Safety Act is responsible for a range of matters concerning the possession, operation or use of prescribed x-ray equipment, radioactive substances and electronic products (lasers, transilluminators and sun-tanning units) that may be on the premises.

This will include ensuring that –

- the x-ray equipment, devices containing radioactive substances or electronic products comply with the relevant design and performance criteria in the regulations;
- the x-ray equipment, radioactive substances or electronic products are used only for the prescribed purposes and only by persons authorised to do so (see Regulation 19); and that
- appropriate instruction is given and facilities and safety devices provided to minimise the radiation dose received by radiation workers and the public.

The registration may also be subject to conditions, restrictions and limitations which impose special requirements or draw attention to the relevant regulations. Any imposed conditions will be attached to the registration certificate. Failure to comply with the conditions is an offence under section 36 of the Act.

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Regulation 18

The registrant is required to –

- **appoint a radiation safety officer (RSO)** to perform the duties imposed on the registrant and the RSO by the regulations. This appointment requires the prior approval of the Radiological Council (a registrant may also be the RSO).

The appointment of a RSO or a radiation safety committee does not lessen the registrant's liability for any failure by the RSO or radiation safety committee to perform their duties.

- if directed by the Radiological Council (or if considered necessary by the registrant), **appoint a radiation safety committee** to supervise the work of the RSO; the membership of the committee requires the prior approval of the Council.

- ensure that the RSO **carries out the duties** imposed by the regulations.

A summary of the RSO duties is given in the fact sheet, "Responsibilities of the Radiation Safety Officer".

- **notify the RSO in writing** of –
 - **the duties** that he or she is required to carry out on behalf of the registrant and otherwise imposed on the RSO by regulation 19(3);
 - any **conditions, restrictions or limitations** imposed on the registration;
 - any **changes in the duties** or to the conditions, restrictions or limitations.

Regulation 19

The registrant must –

- be **aware of the hazards** that may arise from the use of radiation on the premises.
- ensure that each radiation worker and each person authorised by the registrant to visit areas where radiation may be present is –
 - **instructed** in the use of all necessary safeguards and procedures;
 - supplied with **shielding, protective equipment and safety devices** as may be necessary for the person's safety.
- ensure that, to a level appropriate for the worker's functions, each radiation worker is –
 - **provided with copies of, or access to,** instruction or operating manuals for all prescribed x-ray equipment, devices containing radioactive substances and electronic products which the worker uses or operates;
 - **given specific instructions** on how to use the radioactive substances or operate the x-ray equipment or electronic product so as to minimise any potential radiation exposure of the worker, other employees or the public;

- **instructed in radiation safety**; and
- familiar with any **working rules** that may have been prepared.
- ensure that each radiation worker is –
 - **licensed** under the Radiation Safety Act;
 - **supervised** by, and under the **direction** of, a person who is licensed; or
 - **exempt** from the requirement to be licensed.

Not all users can work under direction and supervision. There are different levels of supervision. Please check the conditions of your licence and/or registration for the level of supervision required.

- **notify** the Radiological Council in writing as soon as practicable after becoming aware of any of the following situations –
 - any areas which are not normally occupied by persons but in which persons may be exposed to hazardous levels of radiation;
 - any condition or situation which, although not normally considered to be a radiation hazard, may become a radiation hazard under special or unusual circumstances; and
 - a radiation hazard which emanates from a radiation source (whether or not on the premises) which is not under the control of the registrant.

Legislation

Complete sets of the Act and Regulations are available from the State Law Publisher, www.slp.wa.gov.au.

Contact Us

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