



RADIATION SAFETY ACT

Legislation for Industrial Radiography

This document provides an overview of legislation for industrial radiographers who have obtained a licence required under the Radiation Safety Act in Western Australia through the Mutual Recognition Act for the use of irradiating apparatus and/or radioactive substances in Western Australia.

Radiation Safety Act

The use of irradiating apparatus and radioactive substances for industrial radiography in Western Australia is controlled under the Radiation Safety Act 1975 and its subsidiary legislation.

The Act provides for the approval of persons working with irradiating apparatus and radioactive substances through the **licensing** of industrial radiographers and the **registration** of the premises and equipment. Registrations and licences are issued by the Radiological Council the statutory body created under the Act. Daily administration of the Act is undertaken by Radiation Health staff acting through the Secretary of the Council.

Note: *The Radiation Safety Act 1975 and its associated regulations are available for download from the State Law Publisher at www.slp.wa.gov.au.*

Conditions, Restrictions and Limitations

Licences and registrations are subject to conditions, restrictions and limitations imposed under Section 36 of the Act. For reference a copy of the relevant conditions for industrial radiography are attached to your personal licence.

The registrant is required to display the registration conditions in an accessible location and also required to provide a copy of these to the radiation safety officer, each licensed industrial radiographer and approved assistant in training.

Licence Requirements & Responsibilities

- Under Regulation 10A of the Regulations, an industrial radiographer shall carry a licence card while carrying out any work with irradiating apparatus or radioactive substances.
- In accordance with Schedule XI, part 6 of the Regulations, in the case of irradiating apparatus operated or used for industrial radiography —
 - (a) a licensee may carry out that radiography in either closed or open installations;
 - (b) a person shall not remain in or enter a closed or open installation during an x-ray exposure;

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- (c) the person in charge of that operation or use shall —
- (i) before an open installation is employed for that radiography, ensure that adequate protection is provided; and
 - (ii) during an x-ray exposure ensure that an open installation is kept under continuous surveillance and that, if any person not authorised by him enters that installation, the x-ray exposure is terminated.

Approved Assistant

Due to the hazardous nature of industrial radiography, the licensed radiographer must be assisted by another licensed radiographer or by an approved assistant. As the approved assistant is not licensed, they may only use the equipment under the continuous direction and immediate personal supervision of a licensee. To gain approval to work as an industrial radiography assistant a person must pass the Radiological Council's examination and be issued with a Radiological Council certificate.

Personal Radiation Monitoring Requirements

Every worker who is occupationally exposed to radiation must be issued with an approved personal monitoring badge and given adequate instruction and training on the use of the badge.

Furthermore, each industrial radiographer and approved assistant are also required to wear a device with an audible alarm which indicates changes in the doserate. The performance of each alarm is to be checked by an approved laboratory following an approved protocol at intervals not exceeding 12 months.

Dose Limits

A person using irradiating apparatus and radioactive substances for industrial radiography must ensure they are used in a manner as to not knowingly expose themselves or another person to receive a dose exceeding the appropriate dose limit. Dose limits and maximum permissible exposure limits are outlined in Schedule I of the Radiation Safety (General) Regulations.

Contact Details

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