

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Bureau of Radiological Health
Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319

February, 1999

IDPH INFORMATION NOTICE: 99-x04: Issuance of policy regarding occupational exposure limits and personnel monitoring exchange frequencies

ADDRESSEES: All medical registrants and radioactive materials licensees

PURPOSE:

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) is issuing this information notice to inform recipients of the criteria to be considered in reviewing occupational exposure limits and setting personnel monitoring exchange frequencies. Action may be required after reviewing this notice. No response to this agency is necessary at this time. Policy issued by IDPH is considered in effect now and will become a part of the Iowa Radiation Machines and Radioactive Materials Rules with the next rule-making process in January 1, 2000.

DISCUSSION:

1. Since the arrival of the new Luxel Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) technology for radiation protection dosimetry, the Bureau has received numerous questions about facilities switching to the new devices. IDPH Information Notice 98-13 was issued in September, 1998, to all radioactive materials licensees regarding the necessity to file an amendment to a radioactive materials license in order to change the frequency or type of personnel monitoring.
2. The arrival of new technology in fluoroscopic equipment in particular has also increased the use fluoro in facilities and for procedures not used previously.
3. The concern to maintain ALARA for all radiation exposure is continuously reviewed whenever there is new technology or equipment.

Therefore, the following is the IDPH policy for all radioactive materials licensees and radiation machine registrants when considering the use of the OSL.

Facilities should not consider switching any person to a bi-monthly personnel monitoring system IF that person might exceed 50 mR per month.

This limit will allow facilities to monitor, on a monthly basis, the exposure of personnel who might exceed a annual limit of 5 Rem. Personnel in high exposure positions such as in fluoroscopy can be more easily monitored for overexposures.

We appreciate your cooperation in our attempt to reduce exposure to as low as reasonably possible (ALARA). If you have any questions, please contact IDPH at 515/281-7007.

Donald A. Flater, Chief
Bureau of Radiological Health