



Radiation Protection

for Veterinary Practitioners



With over 30 years experience providing Radiation Protection Advice to veterinary practices IRS is your one-stop solution to all your radiation protection needs.

Our Self-Audit procedure provides you with a simple, straightforward solution to complying with the relevant regulations and guidance notes. Our cost effective and responsive service enables the employer to fulfill their legal requirements with minimal disruption of the customer's business activities.

Service specification:

Regulation 13 of the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999 (IRR99) states that when undertaking any work involving ionising radiations the employer must consult with a suitable Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA) on certain matters detailed in the IRR 99. IRS has a team of experienced RPAs who hold certificates of competence provided by RPA2000, an accreditation body recognised by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). IRS also holds corporate accreditation as an RPA body with HSE. In order to ensure consistency in the standard of service provided by IRS the activities of all the RPAs are co-ordinated.

Our RPA service advises you in respect of methods of complying with the requirements of the relevant statutory provisions, codes of practice and guidance notes, relative to radiological protection, in particular the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 and The Radioactive Substances Act 1993. IRS RPAs are also available for consultation by telephone at any time during normal working hours (Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm)

IRS ensures all legal requirements are met through a self assessment scheme, which meets the approval of the RCVS. The scheme is administered through the provision of a self assessment questionnaire. Upon signing up to the IRS RPA service a questionnaire will be immediately issued to the customer for completion and return to IRS. A compliance report will then be issued identifying gaps and areas for improvement. Thereafter the self assessment questionnaire is issued on a 3 yearly basis to monitor changes in the working environment and overall standards of radiation safety. As part of our service we do not routinely visit a customer's premises, as we do not believe this is cost effective or usually necessary. Customers who require an RPA to visit would be subject to an additional charge. We must stress however that an RPA is always available by e-mail or telephone for direct consultations. We always ensure that requests for advice are followed up promptly with the customers needs first and foremost. The self assessment scheme helps formalise the process of consultation required under the IRR 99.

The scope of the radiation protection advice provided within the self assessment scheme in relation to compliance with IRR 99 includes the following:

- The identification of controlled and supervised areas
- The designation of classified persons
- The interpretation and significance of radiation exposures
- Compliance with any special notices served by Health & Safety Executive
- Drawing up local rules
- The appointment of Radiation Protection Supervisors
- The training and instruction of Radiation Protection Supervisors, employees and other persons affected by work with ionising radiations

- The prior examination of plans (scaled drawings or digital images) for installations and the acceptance into service of new or modified sources of ionising radiation in relation to any engineering controls, design features, safety features and warning devices provided to restrict exposure to ionising radiation
- The regular calibration of equipment provided for monitoring of levels of ionising radiation and the regular checking that such equipment is serviceable and correctly used
- The periodic examination and testing of engineering controls, design features safety features and warning devices and regular checking of systems of work provided to restrict exposure to ionising radiation
- The assessment of hazards arising from foreseeable incidents and the drawing up of contingency plans and risk assessments where appropriate
- Any matters raised by the Health and Safety Executive or by the Environment Agency
- The acceptance of new installations, processes and equipment together with any subsequent modifications having radiation safety implications
- The provision, maintenance and testing of safety features and personal protective clothing
- The extent to which personnel monitoring and environmental surveys are required
- Selection and use of adequate and suitable PPE

As well as providing advice on the above, our RPA service will also assist in the investigation of any of the following circumstances:

- When the dose received by an employee is believed to be much greater or less than that recorded on their individual dosimeter
- When it is believed that a person may have been overexposed
- When the results of environmental or individual monitoring indicate unsatisfactory conditions or the possibility that under normal working conditions persons might receive doses in excess of those levels considered reasonable in the circumstances.
- When quantities of radioactive substances exceeding the amounts specified in the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999 have been (1) dispersed by routes not permitted by a radioactive waste disposal authorisation, (2) lost, (3) stolen

Following any of these investigations, the RPA will recommend in writing what measures are to be adopted to rectify the situation.

Personnel Monitoring

IRS offers a wide range of personnel radiation monitoring services that measure the effective and equivalent doses received by persons exposed to ionising radiations.

IRS can offer a film or TLD badge service with whole body or extremity monitoring available as required. Our flexible monitoring service allows for our monitoring badges to be worn for periods of one or two months, both at very competitive prices, and can be supplied either continuously, periodically or on a one-off basis. All monitoring services come with the ability to view your dose reports online and are approved by the Health and Safety Executive.