

UNIVERSITY RULE

34.01.01.M5

Radiological Safety

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Rule statement

It is our intention to provide guidance to develop controls in the use, acquisition, storage, and disposal of radioactive materials, radiation producing devices, and lasers.

Official Rule

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) is responsible for administering University radiological safety programs. All colleges, departments or units that acquire or use sources of radiation (ionizing or non-ionizing) must comply with established University procedures. The Radiological Safety Program Manual may be accessed via the [EHS homepage](#)

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 University Licensing. Texas A&M University is licensed by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to possess a wide variety of radioactive materials, radiation producing devices (x-ray machines, electron microscopes, accelerators, etc.), and lasers, hereafter referred to as radiation sources. Possession and use are authorized on the campus in College Station, at specific University and The Texas A&M University System sites throughout Texas, and in State of Texas and Federal waters.

- 2.2 Radiological Safety Committee (RSC). The RSC is a standing committee appointed by the Executive Vice President for Finance and Operations, and is comprised principally of faculty from the colleges in which radiation-related research and teaching is conducted. The Radiological Safety Committee:
 - 2.2.1 establishes and approves University radiation safety procedures;
 - 2.2.2 approves the use of ionizing radiation and lasers;
 - 2.2.3 takes action to suspend unsafe or noncompliant operations and activities;
 - 2.2.4 advises the TAMU Radiological Safety Officer regarding radiation safety related matters.
- 2.3 Radiological Safety Officer (RSO) and Laser Safety Officer (LSO). EHS is responsible for establishing a Radiation Safety Program, including an RSO, LSO and staff, as necessary to support and monitor the safe use of radiation sources at TAMU. Specifically, the RSO/LSO is responsible for:
 - 2.3.1 maintaining the University's federal and state licenses and registrations for use of ionizing and applicable non-ionizing radiation sources;
 - 2.3.2 monitoring and minimizing radiation doses to employees, students and the public;
 - 2.3.3 maintaining accurate inventories of radiation sources, including approval for the acquisition of all licensed radioactive materials;
 - 2.3.4 disposing of, and/or approving the disposition of radiation sources;
 - 2.3.5 providing radiation safety training as required for University employees, students, and visitors;
 - 2.3.6 monitoring regulatory compliance;
 - 2.3.7 stopping or restricting work or activities as necessary to protect University personnel, the public, or the environment or to ensure regulatory compliance; and
 - 2.3.8 responding to radiological emergencies.
- 2.4 Permitted Users:
 - 2.4.1 University faculty and staff must apply for authorization to possess and use radiation sources including radioactive materials, radiation-producing devices and Class 3b (medium-power) and Class 4 (high-power) lasers.
 - 2.4.2 Applicants are required to show proof of adequate training and/or attend appropriate EHS training.

- 2.4.3 Applicants must commit, in writing, to comply with all approved procedures of the Radiation Safety Program.
- 2.4.4 Permitted users are responsible for providing assistance and information during inspections performed by federal, state, and/or University personnel.
- 2.4.5 Permitted users are required to seek approval from EHS prior to obtaining radioactive materials and must report to EHS the acquisition of radiation-producing devices and Class 3b and Class 4 lasers, within 14 days of receipt and prior to usage.
- 2.5 Employees, visitors and students will only work with radiation sources under the authority and supervision of a permitted user. Further, they must comply with approved University Rules and Standard Administrative Procedures.

3. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OF SPECIFIED ITEMS

- 3.1 For reasons of regulatory compliance and limitation of potential liability, the purchase, disposal, transfer and/or surplus of radiation sources must be approved through EHS.
- 3.2 Unless written permission has been granted by the RSO the disposal of radioactive materials must be performed by EHS. Under no circumstances may radioactive materials be sent to Surplus. Any device being sent to Surplus that contains, or at one time contained, radioactive materials must have a tag affixed indicating it has been inspected by EHS.
- 3.3 For the transfer/disposal/surplus of radiation-producing devices, Class 3b and Class 4 laser devices:
 - 3.3.1 All devices must be rendered inoperable by EHS unless:
 - (a) The device is being transferred to another TAMU permitted user;
 - (b) The device is being returned to a manufacturer as part of a trade-in; or
 - (c) The device is being transferred to another registrant with the DSHS or other state.
 - 3.3.2 No device will be accepted by Surplus, unless it has an EHS affixed tag indicating it has been rendered inoperable.
 - 3.3.3 Certain devices containing hazardous substances may require disposal as hazardous waste through EHS.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[System Policy 34.01, Environment, Safety and Security](#)

[System Regulation 34.01.01, Health and Safety Programs](#)

Contact Office

Texas A&M University
[Environmental Health and Safety](#)