

RADIATION SAFETY NEWS NOTES

NRC Inspection

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission conducted an unannounced inspection of the Michigan State University radiation license on December 17 and 18, 2003. Dosimetry records, package receipt and delivery, incidents, radiation safety committee meeting minutes, and waste facility records were examined. The inspectors visited several labs and were impressed with the knowledge of radiation safety exhibited by the workers. We want to take this opportunity to thank those labs and workers for their cooperation with the NRC inspectors.

Problems discussed with the inspectors included the non-return of radiation dosimeters by wearers, and ordering radioisotopes using a University credit card. Security of radioactive materials was in good condition; however, the **importance of maintaining strict vigilance in security was emphasized**. *Overall, the inspectors praised the radiation safety program and found no violations or areas of concern.* The inspectors told us they would return for another inspection this spring.

Dosimeter Return Problem

We are continuing to have problems with workers returning their used dosimeters in a timely manner. As soon as dosimeters for the new wear period are received, the old dosimeters must be returned to the ORCBS via campus mail. Return all old dosimeters whether or not they were worn, since we are charged for non-returned dosimeters. We will send you an e-mail reminder to return late dosimeters; if not returned, a Notice of Violation will be sent to the Principal Investigator.

Often changes occur after the vendor has already prepared and shipped the dosimeters, so you may receive one for workers who are no longer in your lab or who no longer need the dosimeter. If a dosimeter is no longer needed, please return it as soon as possible.

The ORCBS web site has a new page with dosimeter information. You may request a new dosimeter, report a lost dosimeter and request a replacement, change personal information such as a name change, or terminate dosimeter usage.

Ordering Radioactive Materials

It is against University policy to order radioactive materials using an MSU credit card. All orders must be approved by the ORCBS before ordered and shipped to the ORCBS for leak testing and inventory record keeping. Orders must be clearly marked **“Radioactive”** so the correct procedure is followed by anyone placing the order.

Radiation Safety Refresher Training

All radiation workers, their supervisors and principal investigators approved to use radioactive materials in their laboratories are required to have radiation safety refresher training each year. *This training will be available online from mid-February through August*