What Happens in Radiation Safety Audits?

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission states “Each licensee shall develop, document, and implement a radiation protection program commensurate with the scope and extent of licensed activities and sufficient to ensure compliance with the provisions of this part” (10 CFR 20.1101). In order to ensure compliance, IUPUI has developed an audit program for each permit.

Audits are performed monthly, quarterly, or semi-annually based on level of use or other circumstances. Some items you’ll see explored include:

1. Inventory record
2. Direct and contamination surveys, as applicable
3. Survey meter(s) available and in working order (batteries)
4. Rad hood(s) checked within past year
5. LSC or gamma counter listed as area of use
6. LSC or Gamma counter room included in monthly swipe tests
7. Signs and labels properly posted (Rad Waste, NRC Form 3, Radioactive Materials, etc.)
8. Storage of consumables, eating, drinking, etc. in lab
9. If lab is not locked, security of radioactive material

Clinical permits (nuclear medicine, PET) will have additional checklists for written directives, decay-in-storage, transportation, and other specific items.

The auditor will also perform direct and/or swipe surveys, as necessitated by the type of radioactive materials on the permit.

Concerns and violations are noted as “points” against the permit. After 6 points (or 12 for monthly clinical audits) are accumulated, radioactive material ordering will be suspended pending further review. Points expire when the permit renews. More commonly, the auditor may send written recommendations for improvement, which are not counted against the permit.

In short, the purpose of the audit is to help you stay in compliance with NRC regulations.

Radioactive Source Security

The global terrorism threat is of increasing concern, and even a “dirty bomb”, or Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD), of very little radioactivity could send the public into a panic. Our radioactive material must remain secure.

In 2014, IUPUI was cited by the NRC for “failure to secure licensed materials” in two separate laboratories. Laboratory doors are often unlocked and accessible during the day. Please ensure that any radioactive material in your lab is either locked away or under constant surveillance by an authorized user.

New Radiation Safety Course!

Stay tuned for an update to the current 5-day Radiation Safety course. We are looking to create a more focused class, which will shorten the time and allow it to be offered more frequently. We hope to start teaching the new class starting Fall 2018.
John Bullock joined the Radiation Safety Office in May 2018 as the Radiation Safety student intern. He received a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Medicine Technology in 2017 from IUPUI, and will complete his Master of Science in Health Physics in December 2018. Besides his studies and work for IUPUI, John is also a nuclear medicine technologist at St. Elizabeth East and Community Health hospitals. In his free time, he enjoys astronomy and bike riding. Please welcome John to our office!

Radiation Safety Staff:

Radiation Safety Officer
Dr. Michael Martin, CHP

Assistant Radiation Safety Officers
Tim Kleyn
Chris Harvey
Rachel Schmidt

Health Physics Student Intern
John Bullock

Purchasing Coordinator
Judy Savage

Administrative Assistant
Debbie Phillips

Welcome, John!