

LEAD APRON, GLOVE, GONADAL, AND THYROID SHIELD INTEGRITY CHECK

(Procedure 16)

OBJECTIVE:

To assure that the lead aprons, gloves, gonadal shields, and thyroid collars provide optimal protection when positioned appropriately.

SUGGESTED PERFORMANCE CRITERIA:

No breaks in lead lining of protective garments.

FREQUENCY:

Annually

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:

Lead aprons, gloves, gonadal, and thyroid shields

STEPS:

Option 1: If an image intensified fluoroscopy unit is available, this is the preferred way to inspect the aprons, gloves, and collars:

1. Lay out the item to be checked on the table.
2. Examine the entire item using the fluoroscope.
3. Record results on the **Annual QC Checklist (Form 7)**.

Option 2: If an image intensified fluoroscopy unit is not available:

1. Closely inspect each item for kinks and irregularities.
2. Take a radiograph of suspect areas.
3. Process the film and look for breaks in the lead lining.
4. Record results on the **Annual QC Checklist (Form 7)**.

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

Any item displaying breaks in the lead lining should be replaced.

Note: Lead aprons should never be folded. Cracks in the lead lining can develop at the fold, reducing the useful life of the apron.