

# ***Employee Training***

## **Personnel Monitoring Program**

If you are occupationally exposed to radiation, you may be issued one or more radiation dosimeters. Dosimeters are commonly referred to as 'film badges' or simply 'badges'. Dosimeters are used to estimate the amount of external radiation exposure that an individual received during the period of wear. Correct usage of the dosimeter is imperative to assess radiation exposures as accurately as possible.

Dosimeters will be issued to those workers who are likely in one year to exceed 10% of any of the occupational radiation exposure limits. In addition, all workers who are exposed to potentially significant radiation levels, such as nurses caring for radiopharmaceutical therapy or implant patients, will be issued whole body dosimeters. Dosimeters will not normally be issued to those workers who are only exposed to radiation on an occasional basis, such as security personnel who escort packages containing radioactive materials, secretaries in nuclear medicine, and nurses who occasionally care for patients who have received diagnostic dosages of radiopharmaceuticals. Ultimately, it is the decision of the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) and/or management to determine which employees are to be issued dosimeters. Further, it is the responsibility of the RSO, or the RSO's delegate, to periodically review the radiation exposure reports to determine the effectiveness of the radiation safety program and the personnel monitoring program.

If you handle radioactive materials on a regular basis, you will be issued one or more dosimeters to be worn on your finger(s). These dosimeters are commonly referred to as 'ring badges'. Those working with x-ray generating equipment will be issued one or two dosimeters. If issued one dosimeter, it is to be worn outside the lead apron, at the collar level. If issued two dosimeters, one should be worn outside the lead apron, at the collar, the other underneath the lead apron, at the waist. If wearing two dosimeters, it is imperative that they not be reversed (i.e. the waist dosimeter worn outside the apron at the collar and vice versa).

Radiation dosimeters are to be worn only at the facility that issued them. They are not to be taken outside of the facility. If you are working part-time at another facility, it is that facility's responsibility to issue you another dosimeter. Whenever not in use, store your dosimeter(s) with the appropriate control badge, which should be located in an area not expected to receive radiation above natural background levels. It should not go home with you at night, nor should it be stored in your vehicle. In addition, it is important that you do not attempt to disassemble or alter your radiation dosimeter.

Your facility will exchange your dosimeters on a periodic basis, usually monthly or every other month. In some cases, facilities may exchange dosimeters on a quarterly basis. It is important that you exchange your dosimeter for a new one when the time comes so that your dosimeter may be processed with the appropriate control badge. If your dosimeter is not processed with the appropriate control badge then the exposure from natural background radiation will not be subtracted from your occupational radiation exposure.