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↻ UC IRVINE RADIATION SAFETY NEWSLETTER ↻

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**Volume I, #1 (September 2005)**

*Prepared and distributed by the staff of the Radiation Safety Division of EH&S*

*The purpose of this newsletter is to keep radioactive material users at UC Irvine informed regarding campus radiation safety policies and procedures, including tips to improve safety. Visit the EH&S website ([www.ehs.uci.edu](http://www.ehs.uci.edu)) under “Radiation & Laser Safety” for more information.*



**SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS**

After 9/11/01, the California Department of Health Services required that security regarding radioisotope storage be enhanced. In response to this, EH&S instituted new security policies in May 2002.

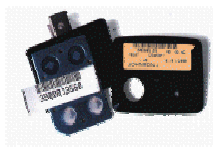
Laboratory rooms in which small quantities of radioisotopes are stored are subject to normal building security procedures. This means that the doors will be closed and locked when nobody is present. Although it is permissible to leave doors open for very brief periods when personnel need to go down the hallway for some reason, it is always a good practice to keep these rooms locked whenever they are unoccupied regardless of the quantities of radioisotopes in storage.

If *individual vials* are present which contain 1 mCi or more of <sup>32</sup>P or <sup>125</sup>I, or 10 mCi or more of <sup>3</sup>H, <sup>14</sup>C, <sup>33</sup>P or <sup>35</sup>S, the doors must be locked whenever the room is not occupied (*even for short absences*), unless the radioisotopes are further secured in non-removable storage containers like locked refrigerators or freezers, locked cabinets or drawers, etc. Radioisotopes of these quantities also need to be kept in secured storage containers whenever they are stored in large multi-user laboratories such as those in the Gillespie Neuroscience Research Facility, Sprague Hall and Hewitt Hall. Alternatively, they can be stored in other rooms under the sole control of the principal investigator.



**RADIOACTIVE PACKAGE DELIVERY FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL LABS**

Now that the new vivarium has been constructed behind Medical Sciences I, there is no longer adequate space available for radioactive package deliveries from that location. Therefore, EH&S will continue to deliver packages for School of Medicine labs from our van parked adjacent to Plumwood House (*the Hitachi Building*).



### LATE AND LOST RADIATION DOSIMETER BADGES

During the past 6 months, we have noticed a marked increase in the number of dosimeter body badges and rings being returned to EH&S late, or being reported as lost. As a reminder, campus dosimeters are exchanged on a quarterly basis in accordance with the schedule below:

Quarter	Due at EH&S	Fee after due date	2 <sup>nd</sup> Due Date with penalty fees	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fee after due date. Penalty fee – lost and late
January 1 - March 31	April 21	\$10	May 21	\$20
April 1 - June 30	July 21	\$10	August 21	\$20
July 1 - September 30	October 21	\$10	November 21	\$20
October 1 - December 31	January 21	\$10	February 21	\$20

Please note that principal investigators are responsible for notifying Radiation Safety of any change in personnel status that affects radiation dosimetry distribution including termination of employment, rotation of graduate students out of research groups, leaves of absence or change of department.

Dosimeters received back by EH&S after the due date are considered late and will be assessed a \$10 late fee. Badges not returned to Radiation Safety within one month after the due date will be considered to be lost, and a total fee of \$30 (*late fee plus lost fee*) will be charged for each such dosimeter.

If you lose or accidentally contaminate a dosimeter, notify your supervisor and contact Radiation Safety immediately via e-mail at [kmcornej@uci.edu](mailto:kmcornej@uci.edu) or [dhamano@uci.edu](mailto:dhamano@uci.edu). In the future, the cost to replace lost badges will likely be increasing to cover EH&S expenses related to time spent interacting with our dosimetry vendor over badges not returned, and time involved in calculating expected radiation doses for periods covered by lost badges.

A large percentage of the badged persons on campus are not required to wear radiation dosimetry based upon the small quantities of radioisotopes used and on radiation dose history (*the vast majority of campus personnel receive no measurable dose each quarter*). Thus, it is advisable for personnel who really don't need dosimetry to discontinue it in order to avoid problems related to late or lost badges. Contact EH&S to inquire regarding the necessity for personnel in your research group to receive and wear dosimetry.



### MEMORABLE QUOTE

**"I never see what has been done; I only see what remains to be done."**

***Marie Curie (1867-1934), French physicist***

For quite a while, EH&S has kept track of radioisotope inventories for research groups on campus via Semiannual Isotope Inventory Reports that were mailed to principal investigators for completion. We have now rolled out an on-line radioisotope inventory program called CiBR-Trac. This program can be accessed at the following URL:

<http://ucirvine.ecompliance.net/index.jsp>

Once entering the CiBR-Trac site, principal investigators need to enter their UC Irvine user name and password to gain access to the inventory information for their research group. All principal investigators who have Radiation Use Authorizations (RUAs) can access their information; they can also designate one other person in their laboratories who can access that information by contacting EH&S (Dick Sun; [dtsun@uci.edu](mailto:dtsun@uci.edu); 949-824-2188).

**It is a requirement that radioisotope inventories in CiBR-Trac be updated at least every 6 months and that a hard copy of the updated inventory be placed into the radiation safety records for the laboratory.** EH&S will notify principal investigators when these updates are needed, including information on how this is done.

Before long, RUAs will be accessible via CiBR-Trac, including the ability to request RUA applications, view the contents of an RUA, request an amendment to an existing RUA, and request the termination of an RUA. Principal investigators will be notified when these options are available. [Radiation-producing machine RUAs, laser registration forms, and Biological Use Authorizations will also be available on-line via CiBR-Trac.]



## **RADIATION SAFETY INFORMATION IN SPANISH AND CHINESE**

UC Irvine is an internationally known institution and it attracts researchers and students from a wide variety of nations. For some people who come to UC Irvine, English is not their primary language and thus they have problems communicating with others on campus. At EH&S, we recognize the need to better communicate our radiation safety rules and guidelines to these individuals. For that reason, we have prepared two radiation safety documents in Spanish and are in the process of generating a document in Chinese (Mandarin).

Radiation safety information in Spanish can be found in two documents on the EH&S Radiation & Laser Safety website ([www.ehs.uci.edu](http://www.ehs.uci.edu)). In addition, information on communication between English-speaking laboratory personnel and One Source janitorial personnel, who in general are not fluent in English, can also be found on our website. That information includes translations of common radiation safety-related words and expressions into Spanish, and some polite words and greetings which can be of use in interactions with the janitors.

The Chinese document is currently in review, and it will be posted on the Radiation Safety website when it is finalized.

**☞ If you have any questions about radiation safety, please contact EH&S at 949-824-6200.**