

	Dosimetry: Personnel Monitoring for Radiation Workers	Effective	December 1, 2005
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		Last Updated	December 1, 2005
		Updated by:	Dr. Richard Page

Dosimetry: Personnel Monitoring for Radiation Workers

1. Purpose

State and federal government agencies set limits for permissible radiation exposure to employees during a calendar year. Additionally, at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, every effort is made to maintain radiation exposure **As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA)**. With the exception of embryo or fetus exposure, the exposure goals are to keep exposures to less than one-half the state and federal limits. Exposure goals for minors (under 18 years old) are 10% of the regulatory limits.

Whole Body	2.5 rem/yr
Lens of the Eye	7.5 rem/yr
Skin and Extremities	25 rem/yr
Embryo/Fetus	0.5 rem/entire period of gestation

*****Note:** The radiation dose to a minor (under 18 years of age) shall be less than 10% of the above limits.

2. Instructions

To help accurately document radiation exposure follow these guidelines and be mindful of the ALARA philosophy of radiation protection.

- A Ross University Imaging representative or the Ross University Director of Safety and Security will determine if you should be assigned a dosimeter based on your potential radiation exposure.
- Wear your dosimeter any time you work with or near a radiation source. It is a good idea to wear your dosimeters throughout the workday. Do not take dosimeters home.
- Always wear your whole body dosimeter (either film badge or thermoluminescent dosimeter) on the trunk of the body between collar and waist level. If you work with x-ray machines, dosimetry is worn as follows:

- 1) Single badge workers - on collar, outside of lead apron;

2) Double badge workers - one on the collar, outside lead apron; and one on the waist, under the lead apron.

- To expedite the reporting process, please make every effort to exchange your dosimeters promptly during the first week of each month or calendar quarter (January, April, July, October).
- If your dosimeter is exposed to radiation or becomes contaminated with radioactive material, or your physician gives you a radiopharmaceutical for a nuclear medicine scan, please inform the Ross University Imaging or Ross University Director, Safety and Security as soon as possible.
- When you terminate your use of radiation sources at Ross University, leave your dosimeter with Ross University Imaging or Ross University Director of Safety and Security.
- Keep dosimeters dry, contamination free, and away from sources of heat.
- If you work with radiation sources outside of Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, please contact the Ross University Imaging so that your total radiation dose for the year will be tracked.

Any dosimeter that is returned damaged or is lost requires that a dose estimate be made and added to the worker's exposure record. If your dosimeter is lost, a fee will be recharged to your department to cover the cost of performing the dose estimate and the replacement dosimetry. Dosimeters are required when it is expected that a worker's radiation exposure may exceed 10% of the regulatory limits.

Whole Body	0.5 rem/yr
Lens of the Eye	1.5 rem/yr
Skin and Extremities	5 rem/yr

Workers who operate mobile x-ray machines must wear dosimeters.

For additional information, contact your Ross University Director, Safety and Security, Lynell Nolan
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