

Radioactive Sealed Source Control at Jefferson Laboratory August 2005

As a result of heightened security issues for radioactive sealed sources, Jefferson Lab has initiated the use of computerized key-control cabinets for source control, in a centralized location convenient for authorized users. These properly posted cabinets, typically used to provide locked storage for high security keys used by multiple individuals, utilize software that can read proximity cards (Jefferson Laboratory identification cards) to unlock a particular compartment for source access.

Only users with authorization from the sealed source custodian for that source and appropriate up-to-date radiation safety training may access the source. Both of these types of information are contained in the proximity card. If a person does not have authorization to use the source, that person cannot access the source, even under power loss situations.



The software also allows members of the Radiation Control Group to ascertain on what date and time a source was checked out, as well as by whom. This significantly decreases the time necessary to perform semiannual audits, and increases the confidence of the location of any source on any particular day.

The centralized location for the users allows for multiple users to access the source within a week, thereby decreasing the need for multiple sources of the same type, as well as

decreasing the time spent by authorized users and Radiological Control Technologists iteratively completing paperwork for use of a source. A binder is posted at these stations so that the usage conditions for each sealed source can be conveniently referenced and reviewed

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