

USDA Radiation Safety Staff

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NRC Cites Violations of Irradiator Security

On June 10, 2008 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a notice of violation to USDA for **violations of security program requirements** at Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) facilities where irradiators are used. The violations were significant and the NRC considered taking the additional enforcement actions of assessing USDA a **civil penalty** and issuing a press release. However, based on prompt and comprehensive **corrective actions** taken by USDA and commitments to strengthen oversight of the security program made by the Office of Procurement and Property Management representatives and Dr. Karl Narang, of ARS and Chairman of the USDA Radiation Safety Committee, the NRC did not take any additional enforcement actions. OPPM will work with ARS and APHIS to ensure compliance with NRC requirements and prevent additional violations.

RSS Inspection Summary

15 Inspections Performed in 2008.

Violations Noted During Inspections:

An ECD was relocated without prior approval from RSS.

Upcoming Inspections:

APHIS / Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico; Guatemala City, Guatemala

ARS / East Lansing, MI; Plum Island, NY; Auburn, AL

FS / Delaware, OH; Phoenix, AZ; Corvallis, Lakeview, OR

FSIS / Athens, GA

NRCS / Farmville, VA

SAFETY TIPS

All Permit Holders - Change in Employment Status

- Contact RSS immediately if you are anticipating **retirement** or a **change of employment**.

Unsealed Radiation Source Users - Documentation of Lab Surveys in RSMS Database

- Timely and accurate entry of lab survey results is mandatory for all users of unsealed radiation sources.
- Each lab survey you perform must be entered into our online database.
- If you have no inventory, you must log on to document a "no survey" response.
- The submit button must be selected at the end of the lab survey sequence to ensure your survey was processed.
- You can only print your lab survey after it has been submitted by clicking on "view all surveys" and selecting the print button.
- Lab surveys prior to March 2008 do not have to be entered into the system.
- Retain hard copies of lab surveys for inspection purposes and discard after 3 years.

Irradiator Operators - Restricted Access to Irradiator Facilities

Only individuals whose names appear on the access list issued by RSS may have unescorted access to irradiators. Individuals whose names do not appear on the RSS issued access list must be escorted by an individual on the list.



Dosimetry Vendor Name Change



The name of our dosimetry provider has changed. Global Dosimetry is now Mirion Technologies. This transition will not affect your dosimetry service in any way. You should continue to return the previous quarter's badges, using the enclosed address label, when the current quarter's badges are received.

Failure to return badges results in extra costs and inaccurate exposure data. You must **return your badges within 15 days** of receipt of new badges.