

**TAKE CONTROL**

# Exposure to Ionising Radiation

This information bulletin has been produced to assist in the prevention of workplace injury and disease. By identifying causes and assessing and controlling risks you can take control of health and safety in your workplace.

## Risk indicators in the workplace

Some things to look for include:

- Damaged containers of radioactive substances;
- Unlicensed persons using X-ray equipment or radioactive substances;
- Unlabelled radioactive substances;
- Unauthorised persons carrying out repairs to ionising radiation producing equipment and source containers;
- Radioactive sources kept in unlabelled, unlocked or wet stores;
- Work practices which allow employees to place parts of their body in radiation beam;
- No warning lights to indicate when an X-ray machine is in operation.

## Examples of what can be done to stop such occurrences from happening

Employers should, for example, make sure that:

- All sources of radiation are properly identified and labelled.
- Radiation safety procedures are developed, implemented and enforced;
- Suitable enclosures, shielding and barriers are installed;
- Appropriate protective clothing is provided and used (eg, lead gloves and aprons).
- Access to equipment and sources producing ionising radiation is limited to competent personnel;
- Safety interlocks and fail safe switches are installed on ionising radiation producing equipment and source containers;
- If work is to be carried out in general public areas, then barriers are set up to prevent public access to the radiation work area;
- Personal monitoring of radiation exposure is carried out appropriate to the type of radiation being used.

## To find out more

The [Workplace Health and Safety Act](#) and the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#) outline the minimum standards and the process to manage occupational health and safety in your workplace.

Specific regulations to note in respect of this topic are:

Regulation 58            Exposure to certain risks

Regulation 71	Personal Protective Equipment
Regulation 76	Eye Protection
Regulation 79	Hand Protection
Regulation 81	Protective Clothing
Regulation 56	Noise

The [Radiation \(Safety Control\) Act](#) and [Regulations](#) provide minimum standards and the process to manage radiation in your workplace.

Australian Standards applicable to this topic include:

<a href="#">AS 3200</a>	Diagnostic X-ray facilities – Safe Practices
<a href="#">AS 2243.4</a>	Ionising Radiation
<a href="#">AS 2772</a>	Radiofrequency radiation (series)

*NT WorkSafe kindly acknowledges WorkCover SA.*

**For further information please contact NT Worksafe on 1800 019 115 or visit [www.worksafe.nt.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au)**