

RI-48

CONTAMINATION INVESTIGATIONS AND REPORTING

PURPOSE

This procedure specifies the requirements and responsibilities for conducting, documenting and reporting investigations of actual or suspected uncontrolled contamination events other than personnel.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The University is committed to maintaining all radiation doses to levels that are as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA). One method for accomplishing the ALARA goal is to investigate situations and incidents that lead to unusual exposures from uncontrolled contamination events. To assure that unexpected radiation contamination events are evaluated, any uncontrolled contamination event must be reported and investigated by the RCO.

Potential exposures due to uncontrolled contamination events involving radioactive materials shall be investigated regardless of the radiation contamination.

Any radiation dose to an individual that has the potential to exceed the annual dose limit shall be investigated and reported to the regulatory agency. If the dose is received as the result of a single event, it shall be reported either immediately or within 24 hours, depending on the magnitude of the dose (see RI-46). The RCO directs the investigation, evaluates the results and submits the report to the regulatory agency. The Principal User (PU) must be informed of the uncontrolled contamination event and of any subsequent restrictions that may need to be imposed on the project.

PROCEDURES

The RCO shall ensure that the Laboratory Evaluation Reports (RI-50) are reviewed to determine whether any uncontrolled contamination events are suspected. The RCO shall also ensure that any reported uncontrolled contamination event is investigated promptly and reported, if necessary. Investigations of uncontrolled contamination events shall be recorded on the "UNCONTROLLED CONTAMINATION EVENT (ALARA) INVESTIGATION REPORT" (RF-48A).

For each uncontrolled contamination event requiring a report to the regulatory

agency, a signed, written statement shall be submitted by the PU describing the circumstances that led to the event, and the measures that will be taken to prevent recurrence. An accurate and complete response is important, since all or part of this statement may be sent to the regulatory agency.

The questionnaire on RF-46A may be used as a guide to ensure that all necessary information is obtained.

The original Investigation Report and all attachments shall be filed in the PU's file. A copy of the report shall be provided to the PU.

RF-48A. CONTAMINATION (ALARA) INVESTIGATION REPORT

Location of uncontrolled contamination event: _____

Work Location: _____ Phone: _____

Principal User: _____ Department: _____

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

Report from individual: _____

Contamination from Radioisotope Laboratory Evaluation report

Report received by: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Additional information dated _____ attached on reverse side

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION: (see Questionnaire)

Arrival at response scene: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Time left response scene: _____ Response Time (h): _____

Isotopes Involved: _____

Estimated Activity (μCi): _____

Reportable Quantity(s)? Yes No

Employee(s) interviewed: _____

Employee interviewed by: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Employee(s) statement attached? Yes No Date: _____ Time: _____

Additional information dated _____ attached on reverse side

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE:

Additional information dated _____ attached on reverse side

Reported by: _____ Date: _____

UNCONTROLLED CONTAMINATION INVESTIGATION QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What work was occurring during the uncontrolled contamination event? Building, room, hood/bench, etc., or any other information which would help to determine the source of the event.

2. What events led to the uncontrolled contamination event? How much material was uncontrolled and what was contaminated? (Activity, volume of contamination, area contaminated)

3. When did the contamination event occur and how long was it before it was discovered?

4. Are there any personnel that may have been contaminated by the event?

5. What is or was the cleanup method?

6. What is the likelihood of the contamination becoming airborne?

7. Did the contaminant react with other materials or was it biohazardous?
