



Digital Chest X-Rays for B-Reading

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)¹ and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)² have documented their acceptance of digital radiographs (chest X-rays) for asbestos B-reading. Accordingly, the Navy now accepts digital radiographs for all asbestos workers (not only past asbestos workers). The following guidance applies.

1. Requesting a contract for B-reading remains the same.
2. All radiographs are to be submitted to B-readers as digital images on CDs via certified US mail (along with form 6260/7). Printed films will no longer be accepted.
3. B-readers are to view and evaluate digital radiographs according to current NIOSH guidelines.³
4. Digital radiograph image files are to be in original, uncompressed, lossless (DICOM) format. JPG, TIF, BMP, BCM, etc., are not acceptable.
5. Image files are to be sent to B-readers on as few CDs as possible. All files must be on a single CD, unless the MTF has so many radiographs that more CDs are necessary. Sending two or more CDs with a single file on each is unacceptable. If a clinic has only a single radiograph to send, then it may send a single CD with a single file on it.
6. B-readers must return CDs to [NMCPHC OEM](#) (not the MTF) with the B-reading forms (the “FWD TO NEHC” carbon copy of NAVMED 6260-7). NMCPHC OEM will destroy the CDs; CDs will not be returned to the MTFs or to Radiology.

If there are any questions about the above, please contact usn.hampton-roads.navmcpublthcenpors.list.nmcpnc-amp@mail.mil.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Workplace Safety & Health Topics Chest Radiography Digital Imaging Updates. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Division of Respiratory Disease Studies. October 17, 2012. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/chestradiography/digital-imaging-updates.html> (last accessed 2 December 2013).

² Occupational Safety & Health Administration letter of September 24, 2012 regarding Standard Number 1910.1001; 1910.1001(l)(2)(ii); 1926.1101; 1926.1101(m)(2)(ii)(C); 1915.1001; 1915.1001(m)(2)(ii)(C). https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=28583 (last accessed 2 December 2013).

³ NIOSH Guideline: Application of Digital Radiography for the Detection and Classification of Pneumoconiosis <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2011-198/pdfs/2011-198.pdf> (last accessed 14 February 2014).

