



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CENTER

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NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23513-2617

6470

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From: Commanding Officer, Navy Environmental Health Center
To: Distribution List

Subj: NAVY RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL PERMIT PROGRAM

1. This alert is being issued to apprise commands of an accountability problem with cobalt-57 spot markers used in nuclear medicine clinics. The spot markers are small sealed sources impregnated in clear plexiglass discs, usually 1.0 inches in diameter and 0.25 inches thick, used to identify anatomical locations during nuclear medicine scans.

2. Several commands have reported the loss of cobalt-57 spot markers during the past year. During subsequent investigations of the losses by the commands, the most probable cause was determined to be that the sources had been left on the table after use and disposed of with the linen.

3. The Radiation Safety Committee, with the assistance of the Radiation Safety Officer, shall ensure that procedures are in place, such as inventory of spot markers prior to removal of linen from the clinic, to prevent the loss of the spot markers.

4. Any loss of radioactive material shall be reported by phone to the Navy Environmental Health Center, AUTOVON: 564-4657 or Commercial: (804) 444-4657 Ext. 413, immediately upon determination of the loss.

5. Point of contact on this subject is LCDR G. I. Snyder, MSC, USN, Radiation Health Department (NEHC-31), AUTOVON: 564-4657 or Commercial: (804) 444-4657, Ext. 413.

G. I. SNYDER
By direction

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