

## **Radiation Safety Policy** *(subsidiary to AU HS&E Policy)*

Aberystwyth University uses unsealed and sealed radioactive materials in conducting research and teaching as well as electrically generated X-rays. The use of sources of ionising radiation is subject to stringent controls for ensuring both the safety of radiation workers and protection of the environment from radiological contamination. The three principal areas of legislation affecting operations at both sites are:

- The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010
- The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999
- Radioactive Material Road Transport Regulations

The University will ensure as far as reasonably practicable the health and safety of its employees, contractors working on the premises and members of the public who may be exposed to ionising and non-ionising radiation. It will also take all reasonably practicable steps to protect the environment from discharges and disposals of radioactive waste.

The University will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (in respect of radiation safety), The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010 (in respect of environmental protection), the Radioactive Materials Road Transport Regulations (in respect of road transport) and any other relevant regulations.

The University is committed to a policy of restricting exposures to ionising and non-ionising radiation in accordance with the ALARP principle (As Low As Reasonably Practicable) and will maintain this commitment via the following organisational arrangements and responsibilities.

- The relevant Head of Department is responsible for ensuring that a radiation protection programme is implemented and periodically reviewed.
- The departmental Radiation Protection Supervisor (RPS) is responsible for supervising radiation work in accordance with the local rules for radiation safety and ensuring that all registered radiation workers are adequately trained to carry out their work safely.
- The RPS, appointed in writing by the Head of Department, is assigned duties for auditing the application of the site Local Rules and ensuring that holding and disposal limits for each site are not exceeded. The RPS is further responsible for ensuring that systems are in place for the safeguarding of radioactive materials, for the safe disposal of radioactive waste and for satisfying all provisions of The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010.
- The appointed Radiation Protection Advisor (RPA) shall be consulted for advising managers, the AU HS&E Advisor, the departmental RPSs and departmental heads, on all administrative and technical matters concerning the use of ionising radiations.
- The laboratory users are responsible for working in accordance with the local rules for radiological safety, and ensuring proper accounting of all radiochemicals and radioactive wastes generated.
- The University will ensure that no new or modified work activity involving ionising radiation commences unless a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risk to any employee or other person has been performed, and that any remedial actions required by this assessment have been carried out. The responsibility for ensuring these prior risk assessments are completed and periodically reviewed lies with the departmental RPS in concert with the Principal Investigators concerned.
- On behalf of the University the RPSs shall ensure that the exposure conditions of a pregnant worker are such that the equivalent dose to the foetus is unlikely to exceed 1mSv during the remaining term of her pregnancy. The exposure of breastfeeding staff will also be restricted to prevent significant contamination of the employee.

- The University will maintain good communication and co-operation between employees, managers supervisors and advisors, and will give RPSs the power to inspect and audit all arrangements for radiological protection that fall within their remit.
- Individual radiation workers are required to work with radiation in such a way that they:
  - a) exercise reasonable care;
  - b) use any protective equipment provided;
  - c) report any defect in such equipment;
  - d) undertake the requisite training, and
  - e) wear personal dosimeters when instructed.
- Individual workers must report immediately to their RPS if any incident or accident occurs in which they know or suspect that a member of staff has become personally contaminated or otherwise exposed to radiation.
- A formal reporting and recording structure is established for all incidents and accidents via the Health, Safety & Environment Committee.

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