

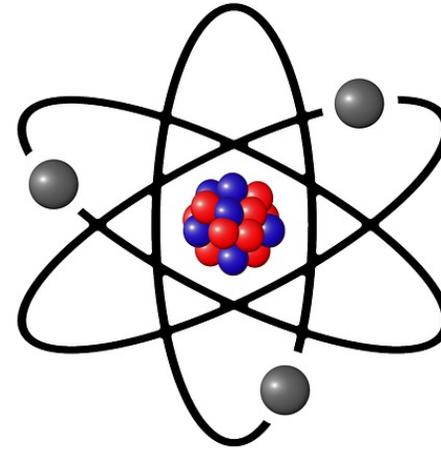
Amendments to 105 CMR 120.000:
*Massachusetts Regulations for the Control of
Radiation*

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Bureau of Environmental Health

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I. Background

- In 1997, Massachusetts became an “Agreement State” with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the purposes of radiation protection and control.
- Under this agreement, the NRC granted authority and responsibility to DPH’s Radiation Control Program to protect Massachusetts residents from certain potentially harmful sources of radiation (e.g., mammography equipment, medical x-rays, and particle accelerators).
- To maintain Massachusetts’s Agreement State status, DPH’s Radiation Control regulations must conform to the NRC’s regulations and requirements.
- In 2014, the NRC notified DPH that it had promulgated amendments to its own regulations and that DPH would need to follow suit.

II. Proposed Amendments

Several of the proposed amendments address protecting certain categories of radioactive materials from theft or diversion. These amendments include:

- Personnel access authorization protocols;
- Background investigations for employees who will have unescorted access to radioactive materials;
- Written security plans and training procedures;
- Monitoring, detection, and assessment procedures for licensees' security zones;
- Maintenance, testing, review, and reporting requirements; and
- Requirements for the physical protection of radioactive materials while in transit.

II. Proposed Amendments (cont'd)

The proposed amendments also provide clarification to existing requirements and mirror regulations that have already been promulgated by the NRC. These include:

- Advance notice requirements if licensees ship nuclear waste across the boundary of a Tribal reservation;
- A general license for all licensees to own and use limited quantities of tritium or promethium-147 in luminous safety devices for aircraft, subject to manufacturing requirements;
- Corrections to tabled values for radionuclides.

III. Next Steps

- Following this initial presentation, a public hearing and comment period will be held.
- Approval of the proposed amendments, along with a review of public comments, will be requested at a subsequent meeting of the Public Health Council.
- Following final approval, this regulation will be amended.

Questions?

