



RADIATION SAFETY ACT

Portable density/moisture gauges

This document provides information to assist persons who have been granted a licence under the Radiation Safety Act 1975, where the application was made on the basis of the licensee's authorisation for the use of portable density/moisture gauges (portable gauges) from another jurisdiction.

Radiation Safety Act

The use of radioactive substances in portable gauges in Western Australia is controlled under the Radiation Safety Act and its subsidiary legislation. The Act provides for the approval of persons working with irradiating apparatus, radioactive substances and electronic products through –

- **licensing** of individuals to possess, use, operate, manufacture or otherwise deal with particular sources of radiation; and
- **registration** of the equipment, substances and products and the premises where they are manufactured, operated, used or stored.

The responsibility for the Radiation Safety Act, including the approval and issuing of licences and registrations, lies with the Radiological Council as the statutory authority created under the Act.

The Radiation Safety Act and its subsidiary legislation are available for download from the website of the Parliamentary Counsel's Office of the Department of Justice at www.legislation.wa.gov.au.

Conditions, Restrictions and Limitations

Licences and registrations are subject to conditions, restrictions and limitations imposed under Section 36 of the Act. The conditions specifically applicable to portable gauges will be attached to your personal licence. Failure to comply with the conditions also constitutes an offence under the Radiation Safety Act.

The conditions for portable gauges require licence holders and persons under the licensee's direction and *immediate personal supervision*¹ to ensure that the use of portable gauges complies with the *Australian Code of Practice for Portable Density/Moisture Gauges Containing Radioactive Sources (2004)*, published by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency. Radioactive substances must also be transported in compliance with the Radiation Safety (Transport of Radioactive Substances) Regulations 2002.

¹ *immediate personal supervision* means that the licensee shall be present and maintain direct and continuous supervision of any person acting under the licensee's direction.

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Radiation Safety Officer

You should be aware of your company's approved Radiation Safety Officer (RSO). The registrant of the company must appoint the RSO subject to prior approval by the Radiological Council. The RSO undertakes many of the responsibilities imposed on the registrant by the Radiation Safety Act and regulations, and provides the initial point of contact with the Radiological Council for all radiation matters. Further information, including a summary of the responsibilities should you be nominated and approved as the RSO, can be obtained via the Radiological Council website at –

www.radiologicalcouncil.wa.gov.au/Pages/RSO.html

www.radiologicalcouncil.wa.gov.au/PDF/RSOResponsibilities.pdf

Radiation Management Plan

Users of portable gauges must follow their company's Radiation Management Plan (RMP). The RMP will detail the company's strategies and procedures to address radiation safety in dealing with portable gauges and meet the legislative requirements.

Dose Limits

A person using portable gauges must ensure that the gauges are used in a manner as to not knowingly expose themselves or another person to receive a dose exceeding the appropriate dose limit. Information on dose limits can be obtained via the Radiological Council website at www.radiologicalcouncil.wa.gov.au/pdf/DoseLimits.pdf.

Contact Us

Mail	The Secretary Radiological Council Locked Bag 2006 P O NEDLANDS W A 6009
Phone	+61 8 9222 2000
Email	radiation.health@health.wa.gov.au
Web	www.radiologicalcouncil.wa.gov.au