

CHAPTER 10

RADIATION DOSE CONTROL

Contents

Para

- 1 Introduction
- 3 Formal Investigation Level
- 5 Non-human Species

INTRODUCTION

1 This chapter describes the MOD policy that is additional to the requirements of legislation. Detailed requirements can be found in Volume 2 of this publication.

2 Radiation doses are controlled by two regimes, overall management control and physical arrangements. Any practice involving exposure to ionising radiation must be planned and risk assessed. An element of this will be to ensure that doses are kept as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP). This will make it apparent whether or not the provisions of IRR99 relating to the designation of areas, classification of workers etc need to be applied. Out of this process, management should be able to establish targets that will assist them in assessing their success in achieving high standards of radiological protection including keeping exposures ALARP. An example of this is the dose constraint, which is set at a level consistent with the successful operation of the practice but lower than statutory limits and reporting points.

FORMAL INVESTIGATION LEVEL

3 A formal investigation level is to be prescribed by Commanding Officers for occupationally exposed workers. This investigation level is set at a *maximum* of 6 mSv effective dose in any calendar year, although local circumstances will often justify the setting of a lower level. The RPA must be consulted as to the setting of an appropriate investigation level.

4 Where the effective dose to any MOD employee exceeds the investigation level, a locally conducted investigation is to be carried out by the Commanding Officer to determine whether all steps are being taken to keep radiation exposure ALARP. Detailed instructions are contained in Volume 2 Leaflet 14. The RPA must be consulted as to the conduct of this investigation.

NON-HUMAN SPECIES

5 MOD follows the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) who believes that the standards of environmental control needed to protect man to the degree currently thought desirable will ensure that other species are not put at risk. Occasionally, individual members of non-human species might be harmed, but not to the extent of endangering whole species or creating imbalance between species. However, the ICRP are revisiting this position and are developing criteria for reference animals and plants. MOD will follow developments, both internationally and nationally, and will keep this policy under review.

Intentionally Blank