

**RADIATION PROTECTION  
POLICY AND PROCEDURES  
NUMBER : 17**

**EQUIPMENT REPAIR & REPLACEMENT,  
AND NEW INSTALLATIONS**

**New Installations & Equipment Replacements**

The Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA) **must** be consulted at an early stage on all new installations and replacements of radiation generating equipment, and all new uses of radioactive substances. It is a legal requirement under the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999 that the RPA is formally consulted on "*The prior examination of plans for installations and the acceptance into service of new or modified sources of ionising radiation in relation to any engineering controls, design features, safety features and warning devices provided to restrict exposure to ionising radiation.*"

Examples of rooms include

- General X-ray rooms
- X-ray screening rooms
- Cardiac catheterisation rooms
- Mammography rooms
- Nuclear Medicine
- Bone densitometry
- Radiotherapy
- Pathology labs, using radioactive substances

The RPA will assess the hazards, advise on room layout, building requirements, choice of equipment, designation of controlled areas, local rules, etc. Where necessary, the RPA will notify the HSE of the new work, report special hazard assessments, etc.

All new radiation generating equipment **must** by law undergo a critical examination, before going into clinical use. This is the legally the responsibility of the supplier, who must consult the RPA. All new equipment should also undergo an acceptance test carried out by the RPA's staff on behalf of the Trust.

**Note that "new equipment" includes loans, leases, PFI's, etc. as well as purchases.**

## **Equipment Repairs**

Before equipment which has been repaired or modified is returned to clinical service a formal hand-over procedure, detailed in the Local Rules, should be followed. Acceptance of such equipment should always include a functional check by the user, and, if major components affecting radiation output have be modified or repaired, a critical examination by the RPA's staff.

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