

## **Radiation Risk Assessments - IRR99 Reg. 7 Approved Code of Practice**

The ACOP para. 44 states that the following matters need to be considered, where they are relevant

- (a) the nature of the sources of ionising radiation to be used, or likely to be present, including accumulation of radon<sup>1</sup> in the working environment;
- (b) estimated radiation dose rates to which anyone can be exposed;
- (c) the likelihood of contamination arising and being spread;
- (d) the results of any previous personal dosimetry or area monitoring relevant to the proposed work;
- (e) advice from the manufacturer or supplier of equipment about its safe use and maintenance;
- (f) engineering control measures and design features already in place or planned;
- (g) any planned systems of work;
- (h) estimated levels of airbourne and surface contamination likely to be encountered
- (i) the effectiveness and the suitability of personal protective equipment to be provided;
- (j) the extent of unrestricted access to working areas where dose rates or contamination levels are likely to be significant;
- (k) possible accident situations, their likelihood and potential severity;
- (l) the consequences of possible failure of control measures - such as electrical interlocks, ventilation systems and warning devices - or systems of work;
- (m) steps to prevent identified accident situations, or limit their consequences.

ACOP para. 45 states that risk assessments should enable the employer to determine:

- (a) what action is needed to ensure that the radiation exposure of all persons is kept as low as reasonably practicable [IRR99 reg 8(1)];
- (b) what steps are necessary to achieve this control of exposure by the use of engineering controls, design features, safety devices and warning devices [IRR99 reg 8(2a)]; and, in addition, by the development of systems of work [IRR99 reg 8(2b)];
- (c) whether it is appropriate to provide personal protective equipment and if so what type would be adequate and suitable [IRR99 reg 8(2c)];
- (d) whether it is appropriate to establish any dose constraint for planning or design purposes, and if so what values should be used [IRR99 reg 8(3)];
- (e) the need to alter the working conditions of any female employee who declares she is pregnant or is breastfeeding [IRR99 reg 8(5)];
- (f) an appropriate investigation level to check that exposures are being restricted as far as reasonably practicable [IRR99 reg 8(7)];
- (g) what maintenance and testing schedules are required for the control measures selected [IRR99 reg 12];
- (h) what contingency plans are necessary to address reasonably foreseeable accidents [IRR99 reg 12];
- (i) the training needs of classified and non-classified employees [IRR99 reg 14];
- (j) the need to designate specific areas as controlled and supervised areas and to specify local rules [IRR99 reg 16 & 17];
- (k) the actions needed to ensure restriction of access and other specific measures in the controlled and supervised areas [IRR99 reg 18];
- (l) the need to designate certain employees as classified persons [IRR99 reg 20];

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<sup>1</sup> East Yorkshire is a low radon area.

(m) the content of a suitable programme of dose assessment for employees designated as classified persons and for others who enter controlled areas [IRR99 reg 18 & 21];

(n) the responsibilities of managers for ensuring compliance with these Regulations; and

(o) an appropriate programme of monitoring or auditing of arrangements to check that the requirements of these Regulations are being met.

*Compiled in this format by John Sanderson, 06/12/02*