



May 15, 2000

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to report the loss of a generally licensed anti-static, ionization device containing 10 Millicuries (370 mBq) of Polonium-210. The device (Model Number P-2021-8201; Serial Number 116762) is leased from NRD, LLC (2937 Alt Boulevard, Grand Island, New York 14072; 1-800-525-8076) under lease number 069350 and is an air gun with a anti-static nozzle used to remove debris from static sensitive areas in and around electronic test equipment.

The device in question was packaged in a shipping container with a larger ionization device that was sent to Sheldahl by NRD. Upon receipt of the shipment, the larger device was removed from the package and installed. At that time, it was not evident that there was a smaller anti-static device in the box. Upon review of the shipping papers, it was noted that the description of the shipment indicated that more than one source had been shipped. Sheldahl contacted NRD and both facilities proceeded to conduct an inspection of their facility in an attempt to locate the device.

During Sheldahl's investigation it was determined that prior to returning the "used" device to NRD, a Sheldahl employee had emptied the contents of the shipping container to use the box for another purpose. While the larger ionization device was accounted for, the anti-static nozzle was not found. To date, the final disposition of the anti-static device is unknown.

Sheldahl is taking all necessary steps to prevent a similar occurrence in the future. The package contents for all nuclear device shipments received at Sheldahl will be reconciled against the applicable shipping papers at the time of receipt. In addition, immediately upon receipt, the device(s) will be installed or stored in a secured storage location. Shipping papers will be forwarded to the device program manager and device inventory records will be updated accordingly.

Please direct any questions you have to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Sabers', written over a horizontal line.

Dale Sabers, CSP
Environment, Health & Safety
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