

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION &  
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

August 4, 1994

NRC ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER 94-09: CHANGES TO THE "MANDATORY GUIDELINES FOR  
FEDERAL WORK PLACE DRUG TESTING PROGRAMS"

Addressees

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power reactors, and all licensees authorized to possess or transport Category I nuclear materials.

Purpose

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this administrative letter to inform addressees of changes made by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to its "Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs" (HHS Guidelines). This administrative letter does not transmit or imply any new requirements or staff positions. No specific action or written response is required.

Background

On June 9, 1994, HHS published a revision to its HHS Guidelines in the Federal Register (59 FR 29908). A copy of that Federal Register notice is being sent directly to Fitness-for-Duty (FFD) Program Managers.

The NRC extensively used the HHS Guidelines in preparing Appendix A to Part 26 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR Part 26). The staff is preparing proposed amendments to 10 CFR Part 26, including Appendix A, to incorporate lessons learned since the FFD programs began and to address the changes made to the HHS Guidelines. However, the NRC will not publish the final revision to Part 26 for some time.

Discussion

The change in the HHS Guidelines that could have the greatest effect on licensees is the reduction in the cutoff level for initial screening tests for marijuana from 100 ng/ml to 50 ng/ml. HHS, through its laboratory certification program, will confirm the ability of each laboratory to perform tests at the 50 ng/ml level. HHS expects that most of the laboratory testing will be done at this cutoff level. The Department of Transportation regulated programs and the testing of Federal employees are to be conducted under the lower levels by September 1, 1994.

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The NRC anticipates that certified laboratories may propose that licensees test specimens at the lower cutoff level to improve efficiency and possibly reduce cost. The provisions of 10 CFR 26.24(b), which permit the use of lower levels, allow licensees to test at this lower level if they so choose.

This administrative letter requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions, please contact one of the contacts below or the appropriate Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) project manager.



Robert F. Burnett, Director  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Brian K. Grimes, Director  
Division of Operating Reactor Support  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Contacts: Loren L. Bush, NRR  
(301) 504-2944

Charles Gaskin, NMSS  
(301) 415-8116

Attachment:  
List of Recently Issued NRC Administrative Letters

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED  
NRC ADMINISTRATIVE LETTERS

Administrative Letter No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
94-08	Consolidation of the NRC Region IV and Region V Offices	7/13/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear reactors.
94-07	Distribution of Site- Specific and State Emergency Planning Information	05/06/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
94-06	Visits by Members of the Public to Nuclear Power Plants	04/27/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
94-05	Notification Concerning Changes to 10 CFR Part 55	04/25/94	All licensed operators and all holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors, test, and research reactors.
94-04	Change of the NRC Oper- ations Center Commercial Telephone & Facsimile Numbers	04/12/94	All NRC licensees.
94-03	Announcing an NRC Inspec- tion Procedure on Licensee Self-Assessment Programs for NRC Area-of- Emphasis Inspections	03/17/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
94-02	Acknowledgement of Receipt and/or Update of Official Agency Files of Licensee Submittals	01/28/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
94-01	Forthcoming NRC Meeting with Industry to Discuss the Potential for Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of Gate Valves	01/13/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.

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orig /s/'d by RFBurnett

orig /s/'d by BKGrimes

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and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

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*Sincerely,*

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Robert F. Burnett, Director  
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and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
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Brian K. Grimes, Director  
Division of Operating Reactor Support  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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