

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

January 29, 1985

IE INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 85-07: CONTAMINATED RADIOGRAPHY SOURCE SHIPMENTS

Addressees:

All NRC licensees authorized to possess industrial radiography sources.

Purpose:

This information notice is intended to alert receivers of radiography sources of recent discoveries of removable contamination on shipping containers arriving at licensee sites from a source supplier. It is expected that recipients will review the information in this notice for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, if appropriate, to preclude a similar problem. However, suggestions contained in this information notice do not constitute NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Description of Circumstances:

A large east coast shipyard recently received three consecutive iridium-192 radiography source shipments from Gamma Industries, an Agreement State supplier, that exhibited significant contamination on the bottom of the source changers contained within an overpack. Radiation levels on removable contamination wipes ranged up to 0.4 milliroentgens/hour. Several shipyard employees were contaminated, and their vehicles and homes were required to be surveyed to ensure that no contamination was spread.

Discussion:

Gamma Industries will be sending leak test kits to users of their Model C-10 source changers and will be requesting that the exterior of the changers be wiped and the wipes returned to Gamma Industries for analysis. However, because source changer models other than the C-10 are loaded in the same way by Gamma Industries, it is suggested that licensees survey other types of Gamma Industries shipping containers in their possession by wiping the entire external surface with a paper towel and then surveying the towel in an area of low background radiation with their most sensitive survey meter set to the lowest scale range. If contamination is detected, it would be advisable to contact the container shipper and the appropriate NRC regional office.

Although contamination surveys are not specifically required by 10 CFR 20.205 because the sources are a special form, the NRC suggests that surveys for gross

contamination be made on shipping containers containing radiography sources on a routine basis, regardless of supplier, to ensure that workers and the public are not unnecessarily exposed to radiation from surface contamination.

No specific action or written response is required by this information notice. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Regional Administrator of the appropriate NRC regional office or this office.

for Brian Gomez

J. Nelson Grace, Director
Division of Quality Assurance, Safeguards,
and Inspection Programs
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Technical Contact: J. R. Metzger
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Attachment:
List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices

Attachment
IN 85-07
January 29, 1985

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issue	Issued to
85-06	Contamination of Breathing Air Systems	1/23/85	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
85-05	Pipe Whip Restraints	1/23/85	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
85-04	Inadequate Management Of Security Response Drills	1/17/85	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP, & fuel fabrication & processing facilities
85-03	Separation Of Primary Reactor Coolant Pump Shaft And Impeller	1/15/85	All pressurized water power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
85-02	Improper Installation And Testing Of Differential Pressure Transmitters	1/15/85	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
85-01	Continuous Supervision Of Irradiators	1/10/85	All material licensees possessing irradiators that are not self-shielded and contain more than 10,000 curies of radioactive material
84-94	Reconcentration Of Radio-nuclides Involving Discharges Into Sanitary Sewage Systems Permitted Under 10 CFR 20.303	12/21/84	All NRC materials licensees other than licensees that use sealed sources only
84-93	Potential For Loss Of Water From The Refueling Cavity	12/17/84	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
84-92	Cracking Of Flywheel On Cummins Fire Pump Diesel Engines	12/17/84	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP

OL = Operating License
CP = Construction Permit