

4.12 MISCELLANEOUS RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS SOURCES

APPLICABILITY: Applies to the leakage of radioactive source materials.

OBJECTIVE: To verify the physical integrity of portable and fixed radioactive calibration sources.

SPECIFICATION: A. Byproduct material sealed sources which exceed the quantities listed in 10 CFR 30.71, Schedule B, and all other sealed sources containing greater than 0.1 microcuries shall be leak tested in accordance with Specification B, C and D below.

Exception: Notwithstanding the periodic leak test required by this specification, any licensed sealed source is exempt from such leak tests when the source contains 100 microcuries or less of beta and/or gamma emitting material or 10 microcuries or less of alpha emitting material.

B. Each sealed source containing radioactive material, other than Hydrogen 3, with a half life greater than thirty days and in any form other than gas, shall be tested for leakage and/or contamination prior to use out of storage and prior to transfer to another person and thereafter at intervals not to exceed six months. This test does not apply to sealed sources that are stored and not in use.

C. The leakage test shall be capable of detecting the presence of .005 microcuries of radioactive material. The test sample shall be taken from the sealed source or from the surfaces of the device in which the sealed source is permanently mounted or stored on which one might expect contamination to accumulate.

D. If testing reveals the presence of .005 microcuries or more of removable contamination, it shall immediately be withdrawn from use, decontaminated, and repaired, or disposed of in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements and reported in the subsequent annual report filed pursuant to Specification 6.9.1.4.

BASIS: This Specification assures that leakage from radioactive material sources does not exceed allowable total body or organ limits. In the unlikely event that those quantities of radioactive byproduct materials of interest to this Specification which are exempt from leakage testing are ingested or inhaled, they represent less than one maximum permissible body burden for total body irradiation. The limits for all other sources (including alpha emitters) are based upon 10 CFR 70.39 (c) limits for plutonium.

Sealed sources which are continuously enclosed within a shielded mechanism (i.e., sealed sources within radiation monitoring or boron measuring devices) are considered to be stored and need not be tested unless they are removed from the shielded mechanism.