

# Medical Devices Report

P.O. BOX 28096 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MEDICAL INSTRUMENTATION INDUSTRY

March 31, 1981

Mr. John Carr  
Freedom of Information Office  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT REQUEST

FOIA-81-130  
Rec'd 4-2-81


Dear Mr. Carr:

This is a Freedom of Information request for the list of 2,600 medical facilities holding NRC materials licenses.

You will note that the enclosed story says there are about 4,600 medical facilities licensed by the 25 agreement states. I should appreciate this list also if it is available. I assume these lists have complete ~~addresses~~ addresses, including zip codes.

I will be happy to pay any reasonable charge for these lists. Please send the lists and the bill to the below address. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Howard D. Criswell Jr.

Editor

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# Washington Radiology Report ®

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**THIS WEEK'S NEWS:** NRC medical materials licenses held by 2,600 facilities.... Maryland arbitration panel awards \$2 mil. in radiology malpractice case.... Dental radiology subject of Bureau of Rad Health/NCHCT report.... Congressional Task Force on industrial innovation to emphasize productivity.... Index advances 1.4%.

## 100 FACILITIES HOLD NRC MEDICAL MATERIALS LICENSES; COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS RANGE FROM 2 TO 3 YEARS

Some form of non-compliance is found in more than 40% of all materials inspections conducted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), although the number of cases involving severe infractions is less than 10%, according to Harold Thornberg, director of the Division of Safeguards and Radiological Safety Inspection, Office of Inspection and Enforcement.

In the medical field, the most severe penalty imposed by NRC last year was temporary suspension of license, Thornberg told WRR. Many of the violations are administrative in nature and are easily corrected, he said. He noted that a lot of administrative violations may be indicative of other more serious problems.

In the years 1979 and 1980, NRC conducted 1,680 inspections of facilities using radioactive materials for medical purposes. More than 7,500 materials inspections for all categories of use were conducted.

Total number of facilities holding NRC materials licenses is about 8,500. About 2,600 of these are medical licenses. In addition, about 4,600 more medical facilities are licensed by 26 states that have been delegated licensing and inspection authority by NRC (agreement states):

Over the last 6 or 7 years, the total NRC materials licenses has remained about the same, Thornberg said. The number of medical facilities applying for licenses rose rapidly in that period but has leveled off. Thornberg postulated that most of the facilities interested in using radioactive materials for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes already are licensed.

The largest producers of medical radioactive materials licensed by NRC are E.R. Squibb & Son, Inc., Abbott Laboratories, and Mallinckrodt, Inc., according to Thornberg.

Typically all NRC licensed medical facilities use technetium-99m, Thornberg said. It is widely used in diagnostic procedures because of its short half-life and the low dose required. A few of the largest hospitals own technetium generators, in which technetium is obtained from molybdenum in a milking-off process. Iodine-131 is the second most frequently used radioisotope for medical purposes.

The frequency of NRC inspection is determined by the category/priority assigned at the time of licensing, Thornberg explained. There are 24 materials categories, 4 of them related to medical uses. Medical users are routinely inspected every 2 or 3 years. Intervals between inspections for facilities with limited licenses permitting use of only small amounts of radionuclides are much

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