

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

Region I

Report No. 30-F748/80-02

Docket No. 30-8748

License No. 20-15215-01MD Priority IV Category E

Licensee: Gamma Diagnostic Laboratories

50 Walton Street

Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts 02763

Facility Name: Gamma Diagnostic Laboratories

Inspection at: Attleboro Falls, Massachusetts

Inspection conducted: October 6 and 7, 1980

Inspectors: *John J. Kinneman*
M. V. Gampbell, Radiation Specialist

12-5-80
date signed

John J. Kinneman
C. Rowe, Radiation Specialist

12-5-80
date signed

Approved by: *John J. Kinneman*
J. Kinneman, Chief, Materials Radiological
Protection Section

date signed
12-5-80
date signed

Inspection Summary:

Inspection on October 6 and 7, 1980 (Report No. 30-8748/80-02)

Areas Inspected: Special, announced inspection of the circumstances surrounding the theft of a truck containing several packages of licensed material, including NRC notification, description of the event, interviews with personnel, and examination of the vehicle. The inspection involved 8 inspector-hours onsite by two NRC inspectors.

Results: Of the four areas inspected, one item of noncompliance was identified in one area (Failure to secure licensed materials in an unrestricted area, Paragraph 4).

DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

*Robert G. Ferris, President
*Vincent W. Dispigno, Radiation Safety Officer
Charles Trezzi, Transportation Director
Individual A, Driver

*Denotes individuals present during exit interview:

2. Notification

On September 29, 1980, the Region I office received an inquiry from a reporter requesting information regarding theft of a licensee vehicle containing licensed material. The licensee was contacted and confirmed that a truck containing several packages of technetium-99m had been stolen and recovered on September 25, 1980.

3. Description of Event

An inspection was conducted on October 6 and 7, 1980 to review this occurrence.

Licensee representatives stated that at approximately 2:00 a.m. on September 25, 1980, the company's President was notified by the company's Transportation Director that a company truck had been stolen during the delivery of licensed material at Norwood Hospital and that the driver of the truck was at the Norwood police station. The Licensee President stated that he arrived at the Norwood police station at approximately 2:15 a.m. The driver told him that there were approximately 14 packages of licensed material (technetium-99m) left in the truck. The police dispatcher told him that the police had identified the individuals responsible for the theft from the evidence provided by the driver and hospital personnel and that the police were confident that the truck would be found quickly.

The Licensee President stated that at approximately 4:00 a.m. the police located the truck and returned it to the station. He stated that he examined the truck and found that all of the packages were still on the truck and that the security seals of the packages were intact. He stated that he then arranged for delivery of the packages to the appropriate hospitals.

4. Interviews With Personnel

The inspectors interviewed Individual A, who was driving the truck on September 25, 1980, on October 7, 1980. Individual A stated that on September 25, 1980, he had started his routine schedule of deliveries by leaving the licensee's facilities at approximately 12 Midnight.

He stated that Norwood Hospital would ordinarily be the third stop on his delivery schedule. He arrived at Norwood Hospital between 1 and 2 a.m. and left his truck directly outside of the main entrance of the hospital, with the engine running. This entrance is under observation by the hospital telephone operator and the security guards in the reception area through a set of double glass doors. Individual A stated that he picked up the box to be delivered to the hospital, and logged his time on the delivery sheet. The box containing the other packages of licensed material was locked at this time. He then was approached by two women as he was about to enter the hospital. He chatted with the two women for a few minutes, until it appeared that they were planning to leave. He then continued into the hospital. He was escorted by one of the two security guards on duty at the entrance to the Nuclear Medicine Department. The guard unlocked the Nuclear Medicine Department so that Individual A could leave the package in the secured area. When he returned to the reception area he noticed that his truck had been moved. He went outside and looked for the truck in the parking lot and could not find it. He returned to the reception area and the security guard who had remained at the entrance told him that he had seen the two women enter the cab of the truck. The security guard did not stop them because he thought that the driver was going to give them a ride.

Individual A stated that he immediately called the Norwood police. The police initiated a search for the vehicle and gave Individual A a ride to the police station. He then telephoned the licensee's Transportation Director in accordance with his emergency instructions.

The finding that the vehicle in which licensed materials were being transported was not secured against unauthorized removal constitutes noncompliance with 10 CFR 20.207.

5. Examination of Vehicle

The inspectors were shown a truck which licensee representatives stated was the truck which was stolen. The inspectors observed that it was a standard pickup truck with a wooden box bolted to the floor in the back of the truck. This box was padlocked shut and had no labels or markings on it. Licensee representatives stated that the packages of licensed material were locked inside of this box at the time that the truck was stolen and that the only indication that the truck was being used for transporting licensed materials was in the instructional papers in the glove compartment.

No items of noncompliance were identified.

6. Exit Interview

At the conclusion of the inspection on October 7, 1980, the inspectors met with the individuals denoted in paragraph 1 and summarized the scope and findings of the inspection.