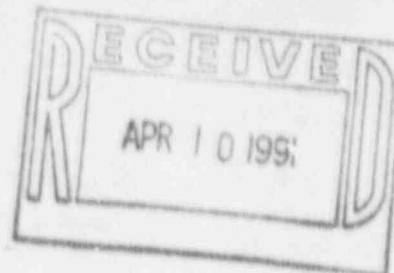




DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center
1601 Perdido Street
New Orleans LA 70146



MAR 20 1991

A. Bill Beach, Director
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, TX 76011

In Reply Refer To: 629/115
License: 17-01322-07
Docket: 030-15040/90-01

THRU: Director
Nuclear Medicine Service (115B-JC)
c/o Ms. Helen Malaskiewicz
Program Analyst
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Beach:

In reference to your letter dated 3/6/91 relative to our response to cited violation 1.B, which resulted from the failure to distribute a film badge to a laboratory worker and/or failure to prevent the employee from working with radioactive material until provided a film badge, we reiterate that a request dated 10/3/90 from the Research Service was received 10/9/90 by the Radiation Safety Office, at which time a written request for the badge was made to Tech/Ops Landauer, film badge vendor. This badge should have been received on or about the 23rd of the month, but due to lack of issuance of a purchase order number to the vendor, badge shipment was delayed. According to Radiation Safety Office records, a badge shipment arrived at the station on 10/26/90. (See memo dated 11/13/90 attached).

According to the Radiation Safety Office records, an I-125 shipment was received on the afternoon of 10/26/90. The Radiation Safety Officer surveyed/wipe-tested the package and delivered it to the Research main office, 5F151 and they delivered it to Dr. Hammer's lab, 5F138. On Monday, 10/29/90, Dr. Hammer logged in the I-125 and performed an iodination on 11/01/90 in Room 5F125.

Dr. Wilkie, the badge wearer in question, did not perform nor assist in the iodination procedure. She was issued a temporary badge on 11/02/90, after which, she began assisting in procedures

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A. Bill Beach, Director

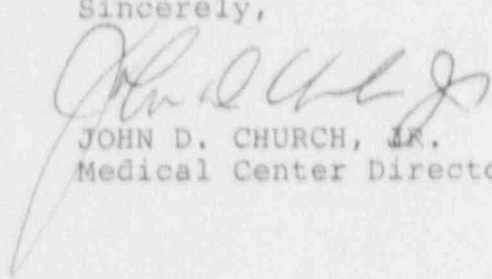
using I-125. To the best of our knowledge, prior to 10/29/90, the individual was not involved with any experiments that used radioactive materials. However, there was a radioactive sign on the refrigerator in which tracer amounts of I-125 in test tubes were stored.


A temporary badge was not issued at the time due to the fact that no official request was made by Research Service. Since her permanent badge was to have arrived before 10/26/90, a temporary badge would definitely have been issued had it been requested.

Precautions to be taken to prevent recurrence in the future:

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Numbered Memorandum 115-2 "Radiation Safety Office" has been updated to include mandatory requirement that each service chief employing individuals who will work in an area where radiation exposure is a potential hazard must submit a request for a film badge for each anticipated new employee at least 10 working days prior to the anticipated entry on duty date to the Radiation Safety Office. On the duty date, individual must report to the Radiation Safety Office for issuance of the badge and for instruction prior to beginning work.

Sincerely,


JOHN D. CHURCH, JR.
Medical Center Director


Director, Nuclear Medicine Svc (115)
Veterans Health Services and
Research Administration
Washington, DC 20420

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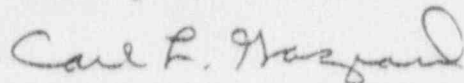
V.A. MEDICAL CENTER
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief, Acquisition and Materiel Management
FROM: Radiation Safety Officer
DATE: November 13, 1990
SUBJECT: Film Badge Delivery

1. On October 15, 1990 the film badge shipment from Tech/ops Landauer, Inc. was shipped for distribution on October 25, 1990. By October 24, 1990 Ms. Thompson, Program Analyst, inquired about the badges and Landauer informed her that the badges were shipped. By Tuesday, October 30, 1990 Landauer was again contacted and because the distribution date had already passed, a duplicated set of badges was shipped.
2. On Thursday, November 1, 1990 and Friday November 2, 1990 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission visited Research and Nuclear Medicine Services. As they were inspecting Research Service, it was discovered that the film badge for an individual was not issued for November. The NRC inquired as to why no badges were issued from October 25, 1990 thru November 24, 1990. Landauer was again contacted and the second set of badges was sent.
3. On November 8, 1990, Ms. Osum received the second shipment of film badges and the process of distribution was initiated.
4. On November 9, 1990, I went to search in the Supply section located in the basement for documentation of delivery date of the shipment. I then noticed the original shipment of badges on a shelf - shipping date October 15, 1990 and receiving date October 18, 1990. The badges were there on a shelf for almost three weeks. Mr. Braham tried to trace the receiving date of the second shipment but Landauer states that they were shipped around November 1, 1990.
5. NRC cited the V.A. Medical Center for this non-distribution of badges in a timely fashion. These badges are necessary for control of radiation exposures and must be delivered as soon as they are received.
6. I highly recommend that the badges be shipped UPS Next Day Air instead of normal channels. It is further suggested that the badges be delivered directly to the Nuclear Medicine Service/ Radiation Safety Office instead of the VA warehouse.

Thank you,



Carl L. Gaspard

**VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEDICAL CENTER
1601 Perdido St.
New Orleans, LA 70146**

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Veterans Health Services and
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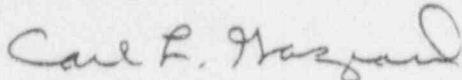
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