

File

THRU: Robert W. Kirkman, Director
Region I, Division of Compliance
A. F. Ryan, Investigation Specialist
Region I, Division of Compliance

JAN 11 1966

COMPLIANCE INQUIRY MEMORANDUM
THE BUDD COMPANY
2950 ROBERTS AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
LICENSE NO. 37-611-3
TRANSPORTATION OCCURRENCE

On December 24, 1965 Leo Dubinski, Assistant Director for Materials, telephoned R. S. Cleveland, CO:1 at his home to inform him that the Hawker-Siddeley, Orenda Division, Malton, Ontario, Canada on December 23, 1965 had received a 56.6 c Ir-192 source from the licensee. The source shipping container was surveyed December 23, 1965 and it was found that it produced a dose rate of approximately 8 r/hr at one meter from the shipping container. Dubinski requested Cleveland to telephone the Budd Company to learn what they might know about this occurrence. Because of the holiday period, no one was available at the Budd Company. On December 27, 1965 A. F. Ryan, Investigation Specialist and P. J. Knapp, Radiation Specialist were assigned to conduct an investigation of this incident.

The information concerning this incident had come from the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada through the USAEC Scientific Representative at Chalk River, Canada.

On December 27, 1965 I called Charles F. Thompson, Radiation Safety Officer for the Budd Company who informed me he received telephonic notification of this incident at 5:00 p.m. December 23, 1965 from Hans Jochem, the Budd Instruments Company, Ltd., Toronto, Canada. Thompson stated the shipment had left the Budd Company on December 13, 1965 to be shipped via National Airlines to Toronto, Canada.

The customer's order was for 50 c Ir-192. It was prepared and shipped as 56.6 c. The source shipped was Model No. 41706, Serial No. IR2599. According to Thompson, Canadian Customs had not released the shipment when it arrived at Toronto, Canada because it exceeded 10% of the order for 50 c. Thompson stated it was held by Canadian Customs until cleared by the Provincial Department of Health. It was delivered at the Hawker-Siddeley Orenda Division on December 23, 1965. When the shipping container was surveyed, the survey instrument used by the Hawker-Siddeley employees, a Nuclear-Chicago Cutie Pie, went off scale. The crate was immediately transferred to the Radiography Room and the Provincial Health Department's Dr. Arthur Schmidt, was notified.

Thompson stated that according to Jochem, the wire and seal that had been affixed at the Budd plant when the shipment was prepared, were missing from the U-bolt which secures the shipping crate. A piece of plain steel wire had been passed through two holes drilled into the U-bolt to secure the two nuts placed thereon to act as a lock device. Jochem reported to Thompson that the inner seal and wire connecting the extension tubes on the source container were intact. One of the two tubes had separated from the source container and had permitted the source "pig-tail" to come out between the source container and the tube. The source had not come completely out of the container. [REDACTED] got the cable back in place, getting a hand exposure of 500 mrem.

Thompson stated that Jochem returned to Hawker-Siddeley December 24, 1965 for further examination of the container and found one tube had sheared off the source container. Jochem effected transfer of the source to a new container.

On the basis of the information given by Thompson, an investigation was initiated by CO:I. At the same time, it was ascertained that the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada had directed its chief inspector, Robert Blackburn, to conduct an investigation in Canada.

Ryan and Knapp have completed the investigation of the leads within the jurisdiction of this agency and a report thereon is being completed.

cc: CO:HQ for Info
↓ SLR for Info

UNCLASSIFIED

DEC 29 1965

*Hold
for investigation report*

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

DAMAGED SHIPMENT OF IRIIDIUM 192
THE BUDD COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
LICENSE NO. 37-611-3

REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF REGULATION
By the Director of Compliance

1. On December 24, 1965, the Division of Compliance was informed by the AEC Scientific Representative in Canada that a shipment of a 56-curie iridium 192 source was received in Toronto, Canada, on December 23, 1965, in a damaged condition. The shipment, intended for the Arunda Division of Hawker Sidley, was sent by air freight from The Budd Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, an AEC licensee. It was reported that upon receipt the radiation level at the surface of the outer container was 15-20 roentgens per hour.

2. A lead sphere is used both as a shipping container for this source and as a source exchanger for radiographic projectors. The source was located in a tube which extends outside the sphere for source removal. Sometime during the shipment the tube was sheared, allowing the source to become completely or partially dislodged from its shielded position. A wooden shipping container housed the lead sphere.

3. There has been no public announcement. Public Information will use the above information to answer any inquiries. The Federal Aviation Agency has been notified. The staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy is being informed by telephone.

4. An investigation is being conducted by the Division of Compliance.

