

NUREG-1556 Volume 2, Revision 1 Supplement 1

Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses

Program-Specific Guidance About Industrial Radiography Licenses

Final Report

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

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1 INTRODUCTION

The following guidance was developed for the reinterpretation of the rule regarding the licensing requirements for conducting industrial radiographic operations. Specifically, it describes how the Commission has reinterpreted the "two-person rule" as related to conducting industrial radiographic operations. On June 1, 2021, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a notification of interpretation on industrial radiographic operations at temporary radiography jobsites and an Agreement State Compatibility Category change (86 FR 29173). The interpretation and Compatibility Category change were effective immediately with a 30-day post-promulgation comment period. This guidance supplements the information provided in NUREG-1556, Volume 2, Revision 1, "Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance About Industrial Radiography Licenses, issued February 2016" and should be used in addition to guidance in section 8.10.9.3 of NUREG-1556, Volume 2, Revision 1. Applicants and licensees should use this guidance in the completion and submission of materials license applications and amendments for items containing byproduct material for radiographic operations.

2 GUIDANCE FOR THE REINTERPRETATION OF 10 CFR 34.41(a)

2.1 <u>10 CFR 34.41. "Conducting Industrial Radiographic Operations" (Subpart D.</u> <u>"Radiation Safety Requirements")</u>

Applicants must obtain a specific license under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) 34.1, "Purpose and Scope", for the use of sealed sources containing byproduct material and meet radiation safety requirements for persons using these sealed sources in industrial radiography.

As stated in 10 CFR 34.41, "Conducting industrial radiographic operations," whenever radiography is performed at a location other than a permanent radiographic installation, the radiographer must be accompanied by at least one other qualified radiographer or an individual who has at a minimum met the requirements of 10 CFR 34.43(c). The additional qualified individual shall observe the operations and be capable of providing immediate assistance to prevent unauthorized entry. Radiography may not be performed if only one qualified individual is present.

The NRC interprets 10 CFR 34.41 such that the requirements contained in the sentence "[t]he additional qualified individual shall observe the operation and be capable of providing immediate assistance to prevent unauthorized entry" are met if the second qualified individual is in sufficiently close proximity to the operation and sufficiently aware of the ongoing activities to be able to provide immediate assistance or take charge when necessary and to prevent unauthorized entry. If the second individual does not have sufficient awareness and proximity to the radiographic operation to perform these functions, then the requirement is not met. For example, if the second individual is in the darkroom and is not able to hear or see the radiographic operations, then the second individual is not meeting the requirements as the NRC has interpreted them. However, the second individual could, for example, use an open radio channel or cell phone to maintain awareness of ongoing radiographic operations from a nearby darkroom. The second individual may perform other tasks nearby so long as the individual is cognizant of the site-specific circumstances when radiographic operations are in progress. In addition to adopting the new interpretation, the NRC changed the compatibility category of 10 CFR 34.41(a) from B to C: Agreement States should therefore not need to revise their implementations of 10 CFR 34.41.

This interpretation does not affect the NRC's existing guidance for temporary jobsites that have multiple access points. As explained in NUREG-1556, Volume 2, Revision 1, licensees may need two or more individuals present to prevent unauthorized entry at temporary jobsites at facilities with multiple levels and multiple access points, or where members of the public are close to the radiographic operations.

The regulation at 10 CFR 34.45(a)(3) requires the applicant to provide operating and emergency procedures, including instructions in methods for controlling access to radiographic areas. Each licensee should include the following information when

developing, implementing, and maintaining operating and emergency procedures for controlling access and the capability of providing immediate assistance to prevent unauthorized entry:

- a description of active surveillance or communications technology that will be used to maintain sufficient awareness, such as advanced surveillance by drones, robotics, artificial intelligence (AI)¹
- a description of scenarios in which radiographic personnel directly observe that no one is near or approaching the boundaries
- a description of testing and maintenance of the equipment or advanced technology, or both that will be used to assist radiographic personnel in controlling access into the restricted area
- instruction to radiographers on the limited circumstances to maintain sufficient awareness, including, but not limited to, making announcements over the public address system before and during radiographic operations; ability to provide immediate assistance; and medical emergency considerations

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The NRC continues to improve its skills and capabilities to review and evaluate the application of AI to NRCregulated activities, maintain awareness of technological innovations, and ensure the safe and secure use of AI in NRC-regulated activities. (refer to NUREG-2261, "Artificial Intelligence Strategic Plan: Fiscal Years 2023-2027," issued May 2023). These technologies are currently in use for non-destructive testing and railway infrastructure industry.

3 CHECKLIST

Checklist of Example Scenarios Included in Operating and Emergency Procedures for Applications under 10 CFR 34.41(a)

A checkmark in each box in the table below indicates that the application package includes the appropriate information for each of the example scenarios for maintaining sufficient awareness in site-specific circumstances.²

Temporary JobSite	and	of the Equipment (including advanced	Instructions to Radiographic Personnel (including description of active communication)
Oil/gas pipeline remote location	[]	[]	[]
Short duration of radiographic exposure (i.e., 8 seconds) when the source is quickly retracted	[]	[]	[]
Direct observation of multiple access points or jobsite with complex geometry	[]	[]	[]
Limited access (i.e., one access point)	[]	[]	[]

²

Applicants may include site-specific circumstances or scenarios not listed. Examples described in the checklist may include but are not limited to scenarios in section 03.01 (Risk Module 1) of Inspection Procedure 87121, "Industrial Radiography Programs."

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The supplemental guidance was developed for the reinterpretation of the rule regarding the licensing requirements for conducting industrial radiographic operations. Specifically, it describes how the Commission has reinterpreted the "two- person rule" as related to conducting industrial radiographic operations. On June 1, 2021, the NRC issued a notification of interpretation on industrial radiographic operations at temporary radiography jobsites and an Agreement State Compatibility Category change (86 FR 29173). The interpretation and Compatibility Category change were effective immediately with a 30-day post-promulgation comment period. The guidance supplements the information provided in NUREG-1556, Volume 2, Revision 1, "Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance About Industrial Radiography Licenses issued February 2016," and should be used in addition to the guidance in section 8.10.9.3 of NUREG-1556, Volume 2, Revision 1. Applicants and licensees should use the guidance in the completion and submission of materials license applications and amendments for items containing byproduct material for radiographic operations.						
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