



NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Headquarters

Washington, DC. 20555-0001

www.nrc.gov ■ opa.resource@nrc.gov



No: 26-052

May 7, 2026

CONTACT: [Christine Saah Nazer](#), 301-415-8200

EO14300 Rulemaking

Updated

NRC Proposes Major Update to Rules for Medical and Industrial Radioactive Materials

ROCKVILLE, Md.— Updated to correct link to the proposed rule and include additional guidance. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today proposed sweeping updates to its rules governing the use of radioactive materials in medicine, industry and research aimed at maintaining strong safety protections while reducing unnecessary regulatory burden.

The [proposed rule](#) would streamline licensing for widely used activities such as medical imaging, cancer diagnostics, industrial radiography and well logging, making it faster and more predictable for professionals to operate without compromising safety.

It would also reduce paperwork for low-risk products and modernize requirements to better reflect current technologies and risk levels.

“This proposal reflects a smarter, more modern approach to regulation, one that maintains our high safety standards while making it easier to deliver important medical, industrial and research benefits,” said NRC Chairman Ho Nieh.

What’s changing:

- **Faster, simpler licensing** for common uses through a new class of general licenses
- **Updated financial assurance thresholds** aligned with today’s risk profile
- **Clearer, more flexible pathways** for medical and research applications
- **Reduced paperwork** for low-risk consumer and commercial products
- **Improved access to medical technologies**, including greater flexibility for PET isotope distribution
- **Less duplicative oversight** for some companies operating across Agreement States and NRC jurisdictions

NRC has prepared interim staff guidance documents ([Guidance for the Implementation of 10 CFR Part 31 Subpart C Standard General Licenses](#) and [Guidance on Reciprocity](#)).

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was created as an expert, technical agency to protect public health, safety, and security, and regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials, including enabling the deployment of nuclear power for the benefit of society. Among other responsibilities, the agency issues licenses, conducts inspections, initiates and enforces regulations, and plans for incident response. The NRC is collaborating with interagency partners to implement reforms outlined in new Executive Orders and the ADVANCE Act to streamline agency activities and enhance efficiency.