

## **IONISING RADIATION IN SCHOOLS**

- 1** Procedures for the use of ionising radiation in educational establishments are described in SED Circular 1166 dated 12 January 1988. A copy of this Circular must be available in all appropriate safety files.
- 2** Secondary schools within East Dunbartonshire Council will be classified by Circular 1166 as "Category C" establishments and the maximum activity of all sealed radioactive sources held must not exceed 1.1 megabecquerels and no single sealed source may exceed 370 kilobecquerels.
- 3** The activity per unit mass of any single source of ionising radiation must not exceed 100 becquerels per gram.
- 4** Apparatus capable of generating X-rays operating at 5 kilovolts or more (other than a cathode ray oscilloscope, television receiving set or visual display unit, used in the normal way for viewing) must not be used.
- 5** Pupils under the age of 16 must not be allowed to undertake experiments with ionising radiations. In these circumstances experiments shall be by demonstration by the class teacher only.
- 6** In each school there shall be nominated a "Radiation Protection Supervisor".
- 7** The Radiation Protection Supervisor will arrange for the preparation and implementation of a set of Local Rules.
  - 7.1** (The general requirement for local rules will be met by adoption and adherence to the principles and methodologies contained within the document):-
  - 7.2** "Protection Against Ionising Radiation in Science Training - explanatory Notes on Local Rules for teaching establishments (SED Category C only)" Published by the Scottish Schools Science Equipment Research Centre (1987)).
  - 7.3** A copy of these explanatory notes must be available in all appropriate safety files.
- 8** Sources of ionising radiation must be stored in a suitable container within a locked store. A radioactive sources record book must be maintained giving details of:
  - (i) Date of authorisation to hold sources.
  - (ii) Date of receipt of each source.
  - (iii) Name and strength of each source (revised annually).

- (iv) Existing stock (revised annually).
- (v) Date of notification to Fire Department.
- (vi) Details of annual leakage tests (date, source, result, action, signature).
- (vii) List of annual dose limits for pupils and teachers.
- (viii) List of dose estimates for each experiment carried out.

In addition, on each occasion when any source is removed for teaching purposes the following information must be recorded.

- (ix) Date.
- (x) Name and strength of source.
- (xi) Signature (both for withdrawal and return).

The Radioactive Source Record Book must be available for inspection by any authorised person.

- 9** The store and cupboard used for storing the sources must be clearly marked with an appropriate hazard warning label. The location of this store must be made known to the Fire Department.