

Radiology Compliance Branch

RADIATION PROTECTION SECTION



Division of Health Service Regulation • N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

Radiation Safety Officer in Smaller Facilities

Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) should have some training and experience in radiation protection. The RSO is charged with the responsibility for radiation safety and should be available to give advice and assistance on radiological safety matters. The RSO should also be able to manage and keep current an effective radiation safety program.

RSO should have an understanding of the following subjects:

- Radiation protection principles, including As Low As Reasonable Achievable ;
- Units of radiation dose and quantities;
- Biological hazards of exposure to radiation;
- Interpersonal and communication skills;
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulatory requirements and standards; and
- State of North Carolina's requirements and standards.

The RSO should also understand radiation detection instruments and personnel dosimeters, and have an understanding of Basic radiation protection principles and good safety practices, including **time, distance and shielding**.

Regulatory Requirements:

- Know NRC dose limits.
- Know State of North Carolina's requirements for radiation safety and protection.
- Have expertise in record-keeping and maintenance of records, and must be able to retain case histories of accidents or problems involving radiation.
- Ensure security and protection for all persons.
- Be able to stop any unsafe activities.
- Ensure that radiation warning signs are visible and legible.
- Assist, interact and be accessible for licensing and inspections by regulatory agencies.
- Supervise annual audit of radiation safety program.

Checklist for Radiation Safety Officer (for record purposes only)

- A. Name of RSO candidate.
- B. Education and/or training.
- C. Certification (specialty, category, month and year certified, and dates of certification renewal), if available.
- D. Dates and locations of all practical clinical experience.
- E. Knowledge and/or experience implementing a radiation safety program.

- F. Administrative and supervisory experience.
- G. Basic computer skills (e.g., word processing, databases or spreadsheets).
- H. Experience with regulatory agencies – both state and federal.
- I. Public speaking abilities.
- J. Ability to interact positively with staff.
- K. Ability to interact with clinical staff, patients, and the public.

All workers, working with and around radiation should conduct their activities with the utmost regard for the safety of themselves and others.