

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Assessment
Environmental Planning Division

Under the authority of the Environmental Quality Act, R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the secretary gives notice that rulemaking procedures have been initiated to amend the Radiation Protection regulations, LAC 33:XV.541 (Log #RP028*).

This proposed rule is identical to federal regulations found in 62 FR 28948, May 28, 1997; and 10 CFR 34.23, which are applicable in Louisiana. For more information regarding the federal requirement, contact the Regulation Development Section at (225) 765-0399 or Box 82178, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2178. No fiscal or economic impact will result from the proposed rule; therefore, the rule will be promulgated in accordance with R.S. 49:953(F)(3) and (4).

This Section is critical to the safe operation of radiation equipment. It describes procedures for the locking of sources of radiation when not in use to prevent unauthorized or accidental production of radiation or removal or exposure of a sealed source. LAC 33:XV.541 is required for Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)-state compatibility purposes. In final rule RP027*, published in the August 20, 2001, *Louisiana Register*, this Section was inadvertently removed and replaced with the incorrect federal language. This proposed rule reinstates the correct language. The basis and rationale for this rule are to maintain compatibility with the NRC and to provide procedures for the securing of sealed sources of radiation.

This proposed rule meets an exception listed in R.S. 30:2019 (D) (2) and R.S. 49:953 (G) (3); therefore, no report regarding environmental/health benefits and social/economic costs is required. This proposed rule has no known impact on family formation, stability, and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

A public hearing will be held on January 24, 2002, at 1:30 p.m. in the Maynard Ketcham Building, Room 326, 7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70810. Interested persons are invited to attend and submit oral comments on the proposed amendments. Should individuals with a disability need an accommodation in order to participate, contact Patsy Deaville at the address given below or at (225) 765-0399.

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed regulations. Persons commenting should reference this proposed regulation by RP028*. Such comments must be received no later than January 24, 2002, at 4:30 p.m., and should be sent to Patsy Deaville, Regulation Development Section, Box 82178, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2178 or to FAX (225) 765-0389. The comment period for this rule ends on the same date as the public hearing. Copies of this proposed regulation can be purchased at the above referenced address.

Contact the Regulation Development Section at (225) 765-0399 for pricing information. Check or money order is required in advance for each copy of RP028*.

This proposed regulation is available for inspection at the following DEQ office locations from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.: 7290 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Fourth Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70810; 804 Thirty-first Street, Monroe, LA 71203; State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101; 3519 Patrick Street, Lake Charles, LA 70605; 201 Evans Road, Building 4, Suite 420, New Orleans, LA 70123; 100 Asma Boulevard, Suite 151, Lafayette, LA 70508; 104 Lococo Drive, Raceland, LA 70394 or on the Internet at <http://www.deq.state.la.us/planning/regs/index.htm>.

James H. Brent, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary

Title 33
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Part XV. Radiation Protection

Chapter 5. Radiation Safety Requirements for Industrial Radiographic Operations

§541. Locking of Sources of Radiation

A. ~~The maximum exposure rate limits for storage containers and source changers are 2 millisieverts (200 millirem) per hour at any exterior surface and 0.1 millisieverts (10 millirem) per hour at 1 meter from any exterior surface with the sealed source in the shielded position. Each radiographic exposure device must have a lock or outer locked container designed to prevent unauthorized or accidental removal of the sealed source from its shielded position. The exposure device and/or its container must be kept locked, with the key removed at all times for a keyed-lock, when not under the direct surveillance of a radiographer, a radiographer's assistant, or a trainee except at permanent radiographic installations in accordance with LAC 33:XV.585. In addition, during radiographic operations the sealed source assembly must be secured in the shielded position each time the source is returned to that position.~~

B. Each sealed source storage container and source changer must have a lock or outer locked container designed to prevent unauthorized or accidental removal of the sealed source from its shielded position. Storage containers and source changers must be kept locked, with the key removed at all times for a keyed-lock, when containing sealed sources, except when under the direct surveillance of a radiographer, a radiographer's assistant, or trainee.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Nuclear Energy Division, LR 13:569 (October 1987), amended by the Office of Air Quality and Radiation Protection, Radiation Protection Division, LR 20:653 (June 1994), amended by the Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 27:1232 (August 2001), LR 28: