

Chapter 246-222 WAC
RADIATION PROTECTION—WORKER RIGHTS

Last Update: 6/1/17

WAC

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WAC 246-222-001 Purpose and scope. This chapter establishes requirements for notices, instructions and reports by licensees or registrants to individuals engaged in work under a license or registration and options available to such individuals in connection with department inspections of licensees or registrants to ascertain compliance with the provisions of the act and regulations, orders and licenses issued thereunder regarding radiological working conditions. The regulations in this chapter apply to all persons who receive, possess, use, own or transfer a source of radiation licensed by or registered with the department pursuant to the regulations in chapters 246-224, 246-232, and 246-235 WAC. The definitions contained in WAC 246-220-010 also apply to this chapter.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050 and 70.98.080. WSR 91-15-112 (Order 184), § 246-222-001, filed 7/24/91, effective 8/24/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. WSR 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-222-001, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.080. WSR 87-01-031 (Order 2450), § 402-48-010, filed 12/11/86. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050. WSR 81-01-011 (Order 1570), § 402-48-010, filed 12/8/80; Order 1084, § 402-48-010, filed 1/14/76.]

WAC 246-222-020 Posting of notices to workers. (1) Each licensee or registrant shall post current copies of the following documents:

- (a) The regulations in this chapter and in chapter 246-221 WAC;
- (b) The license, conditions or documents incorporated into the license by reference and amendments thereto;
- (c) The operating procedures applicable to work under the license or registration;
- (d) Any notice of noncompliance involving radiological working conditions, proposed imposition of civil penalty, order issued pursuant to chapter 246-220 WAC, or any response from the licensee or registrant.

(2) If posting of a document specified in subsection (1)(a), (b), or (c) of this section is not practicable, the licensee or registrant may post a notice which describes the document and states where it may be examined.

(3) Each licensee or registrant shall conspicuously post pertinent emergency procedures when emergency procedures are required by the department.

(4) Properly completed department Form RHF-3 "Notice to employees," shall be posted by each licensee or registrant wherever individuals work in or frequent any portion of a restricted area.

(5) Documents, notices or forms posted pursuant to this section shall appear in a sufficient number of places to permit individuals engaged in work under the license or registration to observe them on the way to or from any particular work location to which the document applies, shall be conspicuous, and shall be replaced if defaced or altered.

(6) Department documents posted pursuant to subsection (1)(d) of this section shall be posted as specified by subsection (5) of this section within five working days after receipt of the documents from the department; the licensee's or registrant's response, if any, shall be posted within five working days after dispatch from the licensee or registrant. Such documents shall remain posted for a minimum of five working days or until action correcting the item(s) of noncompliance has been completed, whichever is later.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050. WSR 94-01-073, § 246-222-020, filed 12/9/93, effective 1/9/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050 and 70.98.080. WSR 91-15-112 (Order 184), § 246-222-020, filed 7/24/91, effective 8/24/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. WSR 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-222-020, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.080. WSR 87-01-031 (Order 2450), § 402-48-020, filed 12/11/86. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050. WSR 81-01-011 (Order 1570), § 402-48-020, filed 12/8/80; Order 1084, § 402-48-020, filed 1/14/76.]

WAC 246-222-030 Instructions to workers. (1) All individuals likely to receive in a year an occupational dose in excess of 1 mSv (100 mrem):

(a) Shall be kept informed of the storage, transfer, or use of sources of radiation in the licensee's or registrant's facility;

(b) Shall be instructed in the health protection considerations for the individual and potential offspring associated with exposure to radiation or radioactive material, in precautions or procedures to minimize exposure, and in the purposes and functions of protective devices employed;

(c) Shall be instructed in, and instructed to observe, to the extent within the worker's control, the applicable provisions of these regulations, department form RHF-3 "Notice to employees," and license conditions for the protection of personnel from exposure to radiation or radioactive material;

(d) Shall be instructed that any worker or representative of workers who believes that a violation of the regulations, license conditions, or unnecessary exposure to radiation exists or occurred, may request an inspection by the department by oral or written notification. The notification shall set forth specific grounds for the complaint. Any such notification to the department is confidential;

(e) Shall be instructed of their right to notify the department if the individual suspects improper actions by a licensee/registrator, or conditions which may lead to a violation of these regulations, the license/registration, or unnecessary exposure to radiation or radioactive materials;

(f) Shall be instructed that employment discrimination by a licensee/registrator against an employee because of actions described in this chapter is prohibited;

(g) Shall be instructed as to their responsibility to report promptly to the licensee or registrant any condition which may consti-

tute, lead to, or cause a violation of the act, these regulations, and licenses or unnecessary exposure to radiation or radioactive material;

(h) Shall be instructed in the appropriate response to warnings made in the event of any unusual occurrence or malfunction that may involve exposure to radiation or radioactive material; and

(i) Shall be advised as to the radiation exposure reports which workers shall be furnished pursuant to WAC 246-222-040.

(2) Records of these instructions described in subsection (1) of this section for all individuals working in, or frequenting any portion of, a restricted area shall be maintained for inspection by the department until further notice. These records shall include a copy of this section, or all the information contained in this section, along with a dated verification signature by the employee stating that the individual has received an explanation of the instructions contained in this section.

(3) In determining those individuals subject to the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, licensees and registrants shall take into consideration assigned activities during normal and abnormal situations involving exposure to sources of radiation which can reasonably be expected to occur during the life of a licensed or registered facility. The extent of these instructions shall be commensurate with potential radiological health protection considerations present in the workplace.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050. WSR 14-01-077, § 246-222-030, filed 12/16/13, effective 1/16/14; WSR 99-05-012, § 246-222-030, filed 2/5/99, effective 3/8/99; WSR 94-01-073, § 246-222-030, filed 12/9/93, effective 1/9/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050 and 70.98.080. WSR 91-15-112 (Order 184), § 246-222-030, filed 7/24/91, effective 8/24/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. WSR 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-222-030, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.080. WSR 83-19-050 (Order 2026), § 402-48-030, filed 9/16/83. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050. WSR 81-01-011 (Order 1570), § 402-48-030, filed 12/8/80; Order 1084, § 402-48-030, filed 1/14/76.]

WAC 246-222-040 Notifications and reports to individuals. (1)

Radiation exposure data for an individual and the results of any measurements, analyses, and calculations of radioactive material deposited or retained in the body of an individual shall be reported to the individual as specified in this section. The information reported shall include data and results obtained pursuant to these regulations, orders, and license conditions, as shown in records maintained by the licensee or registrant pursuant to these regulations. Each notification and report shall:

(a) Be in writing;

(b) Include appropriate identifying data such as the name of the licensee or registrant, the name of the individual, and the individual's identification number, preferably Social Security number;

(c) Include the individual's exposure information; and

(d) Contain the following statement:

"This report is furnished to you under the provisions of the Washington state department of health, office of radiation protection, rules for radiation protection. You should preserve this report for further reference."

(2) Each licensee or registrant shall advise each worker annually of the worker's dose as shown in records maintained by the licensee or registrant pursuant to WAC 246-221-090, 246-221-100, and 246-221-230.

(3) At the request of a worker formerly engaged in work controlled by the licensee or the registrant, each licensee or registrant shall furnish to each worker or former worker a report of the worker's dose due to exposure to radiation or radioactive material upon termination. For the purposes of this section, termination means the end of employment with the licensee or the end of a work assignment in the licensee's restricted area(s) in a given calendar quarter without expectation, or specific scheduling, of reentry into such restricted area(s) during the remainder of that calendar quarter. Such report shall be furnished within thirty days from the time the request is made, or within thirty days after the exposure of the individual has been determined by the licensee or registrant, whichever is later; shall cover, within the period of time specified in the request, the dose record for each year in which the worker's activities involved exposure to radiation from radioactive material licensed by, or radiation machines registered with the department; and shall include the dates and locations of work under the license or registration in which the worker participated during this period.

(4) In addition to the requirements of subsection (3) of this section, at the request of a worker who is terminating employment with the licensee or registrant in work involving radiation exposure, during the current year, each licensee or registrant shall provide at termination to each such worker, or to the worker's designee a written report regarding the radiation dose received by that worker from operations of the licensee or registrant during the current year. If the most recent individual monitoring results are not available at that time, a written estimate of the dose shall be provided together with a clear indication that this is an estimate.

(5) When a licensee or registrant is required pursuant to WAC 246-221-250, 246-221-260, or 246-221-265 to report to the department any exposure of an identified occupationally exposed individual, or an identified member of the public, to radiation or radioactive material, the licensee or the registrant shall also provide the individual a written report on the individual's exposure data included therein. Such reports shall be transmitted at a time not later than the transmittal to the department.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050. WSR 14-01-077, § 246-222-040, filed 12/16/13, effective 1/16/14; WSR 94-01-073, § 246-222-040, filed 12/9/93, effective 1/9/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050 and 70.98.080. WSR 91-15-112 (Order 184), § 246-222-040, filed 7/24/91, effective 8/24/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. WSR 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-222-040, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.080. WSR 87-01-031 (Order 2450), § 402-48-040, filed 12/11/86; WSR 83-19-050 (Order 2026), § 402-48-040, filed 9/16/83. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050. WSR 81-01-011 (Order 1570), § 402-48-040, filed 12/8/80; Order 1084, § 402-48-040, filed 1/14/76.]

WAC 246-222-050 Presence of representatives of licensees or registrants and workers during inspection. (1) Each licensee or registrant shall afford to the department at all reasonable times opportu-

nity to inspect materials, machines, activities, facilities, premises, and records pursuant to these regulations.

(2) During an inspection, department inspectors may consult privately with workers as specified in WAC 246-222-060. The licensee or registrant may accompany department inspectors during other phases of an inspection.

(3) If, at the time of inspection, an individual has been authorized by the workers to represent them during department inspections, the licensee or registrant shall notify the inspectors of such authorization and shall give the workers' representative an opportunity to accompany the inspectors during the inspection of physical working conditions.

(4) Each workers' representative shall be routinely engaged in work under control of the licensee or registrant and shall have received instructions as specified in WAC 246-222-030.

(5) Different representatives of licensees or registrants and workers may accompany the inspectors during different phases of an inspection if there is no resulting interference with the conduct of the inspection. However, only one workers' representative at a time may accompany the inspectors.

(6) With the approval of the licensee or registrant and the workers' representative an individual who is not routinely engaged in work under control of the licensee or registrant, for example, a consultant to the licensee or registrant or to the workers' representative, shall be afforded the opportunity to accompany department inspectors during the inspection of physical working conditions.

(7) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, department inspectors are authorized to refuse to permit accompaniment by any individual who deliberately interferes with a fair and orderly inspection. With regard to any area containing proprietary information, the workers' representative for that area shall be an individual previously authorized by the licensee or registrant to enter that area.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050 and 70.98.080. WSR 91-15-112 (Order 184), § 246-222-050, filed 7/24/91, effective 8/24/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. WSR 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-222-050, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91; Order 1084, § 402-48-050, filed 1/14/76.]

WAC 246-222-060 Consultation with workers during inspections.

(1) Department inspectors may consult privately with workers concerning matters of occupational radiation protection and other matters related to applicable provisions of department regulations and licenses to the extent the inspectors deem necessary for the conduct of an effective and thorough inspection.

(2) During the course of an inspection any worker may bring privately to the attention of the inspectors, either orally or in writing, any past or present condition which the worker has reason to believe may have contributed to or caused any violation of the act, these regulations, or license condition, or any unnecessary exposure of an individual to radiation from licensed radioactive material or a registered radiation machine under the licensee's or registrant's control. Any such notice in writing shall comply with the requirements of WAC 246-222-070(1).

(3) The provisions of subsection (2) of this section shall not be interpreted as authorization to disregard instructions pursuant to WAC 246-222-030.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050 and 70.98.080. WSR 91-15-112 (Order 184), § 246-222-060, filed 7/24/91, effective 8/24/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. WSR 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-222-060, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91; Order 1084, § 402-48-060, filed 1/14/76.]

WAC 246-222-070 Requests by workers for inspections. (1) Any worker or representative of workers who believes that a violation of the act, of these regulations, or of license conditions exists or has occurred in work under a license or registration with regard to radiological working conditions in which the worker is engaged, may request an inspection by giving notice of the alleged violation to the Washington state department of health, office of radiation protection. Any such notice shall be in writing, shall set forth the specific grounds for the notice, and shall be signed by the worker or representative of the workers. A copy shall be provided to the licensee or registrant by the office of radiation protection no later than at the time of inspection except that, upon the request of the worker giving such notice, his or her name and the name of individuals referred to therein shall not appear in such copy or on any record published, released, or made available by the department, except for good cause shown.

(2) If, upon receipt of such notice, the inspector for the office of radiation protection determines that the complaint meets the requirements set forth in subsection (1) of this section, and that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the alleged violation exists or has occurred, the inspector shall cause an inspection to be made as soon as practicable, to determine if such alleged violation exists or has occurred. Inspections pursuant to this section need not be limited to matters referred to in the complaint.

(3) No licensee or registrant shall discharge or in any manner discriminate against any worker because such worker has filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding under these regulations or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding or because of the exercise by such worker on behalf of the worker or other workers of any option afforded by this chapter.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050. WSR 14-01-077, § 246-222-070, filed 12/16/13, effective 1/16/14; WSR 94-01-073, § 246-222-070, filed 12/9/93, effective 1/9/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050 and 70.98.080. WSR 91-15-112 (Order 184), § 246-222-070, filed 7/24/91, effective 8/24/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. WSR 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-222-070, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.080. WSR 87-01-031 (Order 2450), § 402-48-070, filed 12/11/86; Order 1084, § 402-48-070, filed 1/14/76.]

WAC 246-222-080 Inspections not warranted—Informal review. (1) If the department of health, office of radiation protection determines, with respect to a complaint under WAC 246-222-070 that an inspection is not warranted because there are no reasonable grounds to

believe that a violation exists or has occurred, the office of radiation protection shall notify the complainant in writing of such determination.

(a) If the complaint resulted from activities concerning naturally occurring or accelerator produced radioactive materials or radiation producing machines: The complainant may obtain review of such determination by submitting a written statement of position to the Assistant Director, Division of Industrial Safety and Health, P.O. Box 4600, Olympia, Washington 98504-4600. Such request for informal review will be processed according to the provisions of WAC 296-900-12015 and the provisions of the interagency agreement between the department of labor and industries and the department of health, office of radiation protection, if any.

(b) If the complaint resulted from activities concerning radioactive material: The complainant may obtain review of such determination by submitting a written statement of position with the Department of Health, Office of Radiation Protection, P.O. Box 47827, Olympia, Washington 98504-7827 (360-236-3300), who will provide the licensee or registrant with a copy of such statement by certified mail, excluding, at the request of the complainant, the name of the complainant. The licensee or registrant may submit an opposing written statement of position with the department of health, office of radiation protection, who will provide the complainant with a copy of such statement by certified mail. Upon the request of the complainant, the department of health may hold an informal conference in which the complainant and the licensee or registrant may orally present their views. An informal conference may also be held at the request of the licensee or registrant, but disclosure of the identity of the complainant will be made only following receipt of written authorization from the complainant. After considering all written or oral views presented, the department of health shall affirm, modify, or reverse the determination of the office of radiation protection and furnish the complainant and the licensee or registrant a written notification of the decision and the reason(s) therefore.

(2) If the office of radiation protection determines that an inspection is not warranted because the requirements of WAC 246-222-070(1) have not been met, it shall notify the complainant in writing of such determination. Such determination shall be without prejudice to the filing of a new complaint meeting the requirements of WAC 246-222-070(1).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.010, 70.98.050, and 70.98.080. WSR 17-12-046, § 246-222-080, filed 6/1/17, effective 7/2/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050. WSR 14-01-077, § 246-222-080, filed 12/16/13, effective 1/16/14; WSR 98-13-037, § 246-222-080, filed 6/8/98, effective 7/9/98; WSR 94-01-073, § 246-222-080, filed 12/9/93, effective 1/9/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.050 and 70.98.080. WSR 91-15-112 (Order 184), § 246-222-080, filed 7/24/91, effective 8/24/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. WSR 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-222-080, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.98.080. WSR 87-01-031 (Order 2450), § 402-48-080, filed 12/11/86; Order 1084, § 402-48-080, filed 1/14/76.]