



## Personal Dosimetry Service

B1778/S/219

### RADON MONITORING IN THE WORKPLACE

#### Services Offered by PHE CRCE

Thank you for your enquiry about radon monitoring. For the purposes of protection of employees who might be exposed to radon and its decay products, PHE CRCE can offer three different kinds of service:

- workplace monitoring;
- personal monitoring for classified persons;
- personal monitoring for other staff.

#### WORKPLACE MONITORING

As an employer, you will wish firstly to assess whether or not you have a radon problem. PHE can help with such assessments and can give advice on reduction of radon levels. The assessment will normally entail the use of passive radon dosimeters, to be placed in the working environment.

For advice on workplace monitoring and interpretation of results, you should contact PHE's Radon Group on 01235 822622 or [radon@phe.gov.uk](mailto:radon@phe.gov.uk). See also: <http://www.ukradon.org/sectors/employers>.

Dosimeters that are issued for the purposes of workplace monitoring do not form part of a statutory personal monitoring programme for classified persons (see below). When issued for workplace monitoring they do not fulfil the requirements of regulation 22(2) of the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017. However, they will help to establish the level of hazard.

#### WHAT NEXT?

When the assessment of hazard has been completed, PHE can help you decide on further needs. You may find that the level of risk is insignificant, so that no further action is required, or that the level can be easily reduced. On the other hand, you may find that the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRRs) apply and you need to operate *controlled areas* and make your staff *classified persons* as defined in regulations 17 and 21. This is more likely if you operate underground workplaces. In this case you will need to appoint a Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA), under regulation 14 of IRR17. The RPA must be properly qualified and have suitable experience of protection against radon. PHE can supply this service.

## **CLASSIFIED PERSONS**

If your staff are classified persons, the IRRs require you to arrange for:

- continuous monitoring of their doses (reg. 22(2));
- the keeping of records of these doses; (reg. 22(3)), and
- medical surveillance (reg.25).

The first two of these must be provided by dosimetry services specially approved by HSE for the purpose. PHE's Personal Dosimetry Service can provide both.

Continuous monitoring of doses is carried out using *personal dosimeters*, which are normally worn for a period of up to two months and then replaced. The dosimeters are returned to PHE for processing and dose results are produced and passed to the dose record keeping service for entry onto a workers' statutory dose records. (The personal dosimeters used in this way are similar in appearance to – though a different colour from – the workplace dosimeters which may be used in the initial hazard assessment. Dosimeters issued for hazard assessment should not be worn, and personal dosimeters must not be used for other purposes).

(Note that PHE can provide either of the above services on its own, i.e., only provide personal dosimeters or only provide dose record keeping. However in either case you must make arrangements with a separate Approved Dosimetry Service to fulfil the other requirement. Advice on medical surveillance can be obtained from your local HSE office.)

## **NON-CLASSIFIED WORKERS**

If you find that you are not required to classify your staff, you may still wish to provide formal personal monitoring alone, or personal monitoring with dose record keeping, for safety assurance purposes. In these cases the services provided will be similar to those offered for classified workers. However, because of the administrative burden we recommend that you avoid personal monitoring unless it is necessary. You can avoid it, for example, if you can take steps to reduce your employees' radon exposure; alternatively you may wish to repeat the hazard assessment process from time to time. This should be arranged with our Radon Group.

## **HOW TO APPLY FOR PERSONAL DOSIMETRY**

You can order radon personal dosimeters and establish dose record keeping for your staff in the same way as for other PHE Personal Dosimetry Services (see contact details below). We will also explain what other information is needed. Meanwhile our Radon Group (details above) will be able to provide advice on general radon matters.

Personal Dosimetry Service

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