



Special Gauge Safety Training Issue

Summer 2009

Go to apnga.com to:

- Sign up for the free "Portable Nuclear Gauge Newsletter"
- For all your training class needs, including Gauge Safety Certification, USDOT HAZMAT Refresher, RSO, Annual Employee Refresher and "Do IT Yourself" Annual Audit.
- Use "Ask A Question" to gain answers to regulatory and industry information, access 24/7/365 resources and references, and link to every regulatory and State D.O.T. agency.
- Receive free tutorials including the "Gauge User Daily Step by Step Tutorial", the "Gauge Operator's Photo Tutorial" and the "Shipping How-To Tutorial".
- View or print Emergency Contact information
- Print information sheets for reporters or other media outlets.

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Using Proper Double Lock Security On Your Gauge—One More Time

Our Spring 2009 Newsletter article about gauge double lock security brought an enormous response from gauge owners so we decided to run a follow-up article to help clarify the issue. In a nutshell, you must have two independent locked deterrents to help prevent the theft of your gauge. While the lock on the gauge handle and a lock on the outside of the gauge case are there to provide safety and security they do not necessarily count towards the double lock requirement.

If your gauge and case are transported inside your vehicle (Auto, Van, SUV) the locks for the trunk or on vehicle doors act as one independent deterrent. You must fur-

ther secure the gauge/case inside and to the vehicle with another locked chain or cable to meet the second locked deterrent requirement. As always, open bed vehicles pose the greatest challenge to double lock security. A gauge/case secured inside an oversized "tool box" will suffice if the tool box itself is doubly locked and secured to the vehicle. The access lid to the tool box must also have two locked

hasps. To adequately secure a gauge in the open bed (see photo) of a vehicle requires two locks on the gauge case and two locked chains or cables securing the gauge/case to the body of the vehicle. If you can find a way to walk away with the gauge by defeating only one lock then you have not met the requirements of the double lock security requirement. Remember to block, brace and conceal the gauge.



Annual Employee Refresher Training

Every individual that uses a moisture density gauge must partake and pass a gauge safety certification class. This class should include U.S. D.O.T. HAZMAT Training that must be repeated every 3 years. But many licensees do not realize

that the Annual Audit requires every gauge user to receive annual employee refresher training.

This refresher training should go over the safety, security and HAZMAT basics of working with a gauge and it should re-

mind the employee of their obligations to protect themselves and the public. It must also be documented.

For guidance or to take the APNGA Annual Employee Refresher Training Course go to apnga.com.

Industry News

Next Up: New Jersey, then comes Michigan

New Jersey is on schedule to become an Agreement State on September 30, 2009. Licensees in New Jersey will receive notices and instructions as to their requirements. Contact: New Jersey DEP - Bureau of Environmental Radiation at 609-984-5555.



While Michigan has applied for Agreement State status no date has been set for the transition.



Going Once, Going Twice

The APNGA Newsletter is going digital. Our mailing list now numbers over 7,000 and that's a lot of paper, ink and postage money. To

keep costs down future issues will be available via the internet. If you wish to continue receiving the Newsletter please go to apnga.com to sign-up. **It's Free!**

Our address has changed

We have moved (the P. O. Box was a little too cramped to work out of as an office):

APNGA

15105 Bitterroot Way

Rockville, MD 20853

301-929-9771

Annual Audits — Yes You Do!

The Annual Audit is perhaps the most important yearly requirement of owning a gauge. Think of it as a "State of the Union" for your Radiation Protection Program. Speaking of Radiation Protection Programs, the Annual Audit serves as an excellent template for preparing your program.

It also serves as an internal inspection as to how well you are running

your program and prepares you for the eventual external audit by your regulatory licensing agency.

Most surprising is the number of violations that regulatory agencies hand out to licensees for not performing and documenting their Annual Audit. It's almost a sure bet that if you receive a violation for not performing the Annual Audit you will likewise receive violations for

other aspects of your Radiation Safety Program.

Some RSO's hire an outside company to perform their Annual Audit. You should only do this as a check of your own Annual Audit.

For further information and guidance on Radiation Safety Programs and Annual Audits, as well as a "Do It Yourself" Annual Audit, go to www.apnga.com.

U.S. D.O.T. Hazardous Materials Training

When you take your initial Gauge Safety Certification Training you should also receive specific training for transporting and/or shipping a gauge and you should receive a certificate that specifically states that you have received such training. This training, required by the U.S. Department of Transportation, also

specifies that you should receive a refresher class every 3 years.

Some "older" gauge users may be unaware of this requirement as well as the need for refresher training.

Many are also unaware that any individual that prepares HAZMAT shipping documents, any individual

that carries a gauge or any individual that services, repairs or maintains a gauge, must also receive this training.

For guidance on HAZMAT training requirements or to fulfill your requirement for HAZMAT training go to www.apnga.com.

WE NEED YOU! - TO BE COMPLIANT!

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”. What does this famous line have to do with the nuclear gauge industry? To answer that question we must go back to the not too distant past. The gauge industry seemed to be a much more confined community of gauge owners and regulatory agencies. Incidents of stolen or damaged gauges were relatively quiet affairs.

“The worst of times”. Then came 9/11. Every conceivable scenario became a “never say never” possibility. In “dirty bombs” the media had found the “mother lode” of attention getters. Dirty bomb explosions would soon be coming to a theater near you. Or a bus. Or a restaurant. Or every city block in America. Hollywood jumped on board with overblown depictions. Thefts were met with headlines like “Radioactive Materials Stolen”. Damaged gauges: “Damaged Radioactive Device Threatens Neighborhood”.

Politicians took notice. They conducted hearings on how accumulated gauges could yield a dirty bomb that would blow up Wall Street and our economy. A GAO operation was able to obtain and alter a gauge license, which was used to try and obtain moisture density gauges. They never got any but claimed that the “possibility” existed and therefore a hearing was held. While the industry never did anything wrong it was still greatly disparaged. It doesn’t matter that millions of tests have a virtually spotless health record or that there has never been a case where gauge sources were used in a dirty bomb.

Industry “outsiders” now take notice of nuclear gauges. New “Increased Security” measures are being implemented in other radiological use industries. It may only be a matter of time before measures

are instituted for our industry.

“We have met the enemy and it is us”. This industry must improve its compliance. Inspection results show that infractions are evident 80% of the time. These include no double lock security, no annual audits, no reciprocity records, no self-reporting, no leak tests, missing documents or no annual employee refresher training. The NRC has repeatedly put the industry on notice for the annual number of stolen or damaged gauges.

What makes our industry unique is the sheer number and portability of gauges. There are plenty of radioactive devices in use but most are fixed or secured in process systems. Those licensees don’t have to worry about thefts that involve someone inadvertently driving off with a gauge stowed in the back. Nor do they have to worry about heavy construction equipment driving through the building and demolishing the materials. With 25,000 gauges in use it is inevitable that incidents will occur—but each occurrence is greatly magnified.

Other industries employ individuals that are formally educated and trained to oversee a radiation safety program. Training usually lasts for days, they get to prepare and they get plenty of refresher training. Our industry only requires you to train, unprepared, one time.

“The best of times”. So what can the industry do to meet increased scrutiny and expectations? Simple—improve compliance and training. Enter the internet. The online class allows the viewer to prepare for the class, allows more time to study and understand the materials. It allows trainees to directly relate the class to their surroundings, including storage, security, documents and

procedures. You also always have after the fact internet access to reference and training materials.

No longer do companies have to wait for a scheduled class and no longer will they have to take their workers off the job. No more travel costs such as overnights, gas, meals, hotels, etc. Tuition for online classes are a fraction of live classes, saving the industry millions while receiving a much improved training regimen.

“It Takes a Village”. APNGA gives the industry a gauge dedicated website along with improved training. The industry now has better access to the regulatory materials, which in turn yields a better understanding of the requirements. No longer should there be tolerance for individuals who claim that they don’t have adequate access to the information needed to run an effective and compliant radiation safety program. It will take the whole industry to improve compliance. A slip up by a gauge owner in one part of the country can have ramifications on licensees across all regions of the industry map.

Unless the specter of cores and sand cones appeal to you it is in everyone’s best interest to shore up their radiation safety program, perform their annual audit and improve their performance during regulatory inspections.

RSO’s: Do you think you have what it takes to meet these new expectations? **Take the RSO Challenge**—Go to www.apnga.com to test your RSO knowledge and see how well your radiation safety program measures up. In the meantime:

Be Compliant



American Portable Nuclear Gauge Association
 15105 Bitterroot Way
 Rockville, MD 20853
 apnga.com

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Breakthrough Online Safety Training for Troxler®, CPN®, Humboldt®, InstroTek® and Seaman® Gauges will save millions, improve compliance

In a development sure to please just about everyone in the moisture density gauge industry the American Portable Nuclear Gauge Association has gained full acceptance of online Gauge Safety Certification Classes. No longer will gauge owners have to send their employees to an offsite location to acquire a gauge certificate. The savings in travel costs and the reduction in class tuitions is estimated to be in the millions for the industry.

APNGA classes were developed to be the most in-depth and comprehensive classes available. The goal of these classes is to improve the compliance of the moisture density gauge industry. The class material incorporates the same material that you will see on gauge regulatory agencies and offers direct



links to all gauge regulatory websites.

How will this save money for the industry? Consider that traditional “live” classes cost upwards of \$200 per person and they require you to wait an inordinate amount of time for the next scheduled class. Then

you have to pull your workers off the job and send them to a distant location, sometimes out of state and overnight.

Now you can keep them in-house and train on any internet connected computer. Or at home. Best of all, individual classes cost only \$45 while multiple attendees drop the price to \$30 per person. And this is for the best class on the market.

Fully Certified, Fully Official and Fully Accepted. As one gauge owner put it: “This is like our own stimulus package. I have already saved five thousand dollars this year on training and I’ve learned to be a much better RSO to boot”

Go to www.apnga.com to get your “stimulus package” now.