

ALARA Philosophy and the Commitment by Senior Management and the RSO

Every company must make a commitment to adhere to the ALARA principles of keeping occupational and public doses of radiation to a minimum. ALARA principles will be covered in depth in this training manual. The following is an example of a commitment statement. Check with your regulatory agency for their version of this commitment and keep a copy on file.

The ALARA Philosophy and Commitment

Regulations establish standards for protection against radiation hazards. Procedures and engineering controls are based upon sound radiation protection principles that seek to achieve occupational and public doses that are as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA). Management, the radiation safety officer (RSO) and all authorized gauge users must participate in the establishment, implementation and operation of a radiation protection program that applies the ALARA philosophy of minimizing exposures to radiation.

The primary concept of the ALARA philosophy is that unnecessary exposure to radiation should be avoided, even though current occupational exposure limits provide a very low risk of harm. The objective is to reduce occupational exposures (both individual and collective) as far below regulatory limits as is reasonably achievable by means of good radiation protection planning and practice.

MANAGEMENT COMMITMENT

**We, the management of _____
are committed to the ALARA philosophy of maintaining occupational and public radiation doses as low as reasonably achievable.**

- A.** Management is committed to the ALARA philosophy of maintaining occupational and public radiation doses as low as reasonably achievable. It is a management priority for all personnel using radioactive materials to be aware of our commitment to the ALARA philosophy and for them to be instructed in the procedures used to keep their exposures as low as possible.
- B.** Management has delegated authority to our RSO to ensure adherence to ALARA principles. Management will support the RSO in instances where this authority must be asserted.
- C.** Management will make all reasonable modifications to procedures, equipment and facilities to reduce exposures, unless the cost is considered to be unjustified. We will be prepared to describe the reasons for not implementing modifications that have been recommended.

WORKER COMMITMENT

All personnel working with portable gauging devices will adhere strictly to policies and procedures applicable to activities involving ionizing radiation sources, and will apply ALARA principles and good work practices to minimize their occupational radiation exposures. Time, distance and shielding will be used to keep exposures ALARA. When working with sources of radiation, minimize the time spent near the source, maximize the distance from the source, and make use of available radiation shielding. Workers must report to the RSO any conditions in the workplace that have the potential for causing unnecessary exposures.

RADIATION SAFETY OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A.** The RSO will emphasize the ALARA philosophy to workers, instruct personnel on current procedures and provide guidance on relevant changes to reduce exposures.
- B.** The RSO will review dosimetry reports for all monitored personnel to determine if unnecessary exposures are being received. The RSO will investigate within 30 days the cause of any dose considered to be excessive. If warranted, the RSO will take corrective actions to prevent recurrence. A report of each investigation and the actions taken, if any, will be recorded and maintained for inspection purposes.
- C.** At least annually, the RSO will conduct a formal review of the radiation protection program's content and implementation. The review will include an evaluation of equipment, procedures, dosimetry records, inspection findings, and incidents. The RSO will assess trends in occupational exposures as an index of the program's success and determine if any modifications to the program are needed. A summary of the results of each annual review, including a description of actions proposed and taken (if any) will be documented by the RSO, discussed with management, and signed and dated by both. A report on each audit will be maintained on file for 3 years from the date of the review.
- D.** The RSO will provide written notifications of annual radiation exposures to all monitored personnel and will be available to respond to any questions regarding the exposure reports.

The undersigned certify that the commitments set forth above have been implemented

Signature – RSO

Signature – Senior Management

Print name and title

Print name and title

A stand alone copy of this document can be found in the attachments/forms section at the end of this training manual.