

Classification of Radiation Areas

Controlled Radiation Area –

This is a work area in which the annual radiation doses may exceed 3/10ths of the annual maximum permissible doses for exposed workers. It is the main disposal point for aqueous radioactive waste and is usually equipped with a fume cupboard for dispensing isotopes. Such areas include radioisotope dispensaries and rooms containing X-ray apparatus. Entrances to a controlled area bear a yellow warning sign with the words "Controlled Radiation Area: No Entry to Unauthorised Personnel", and the standard black and yellow trefoil sign denoting a radiation hazard.

- Controlled radiation areas should be kept locked when not in use.
- A system of work must be displayed to allow unclassified radiation workers access to the area.
- Logs of isotope usage and disposal should be readily available.

Supervised Radiation Area –

This is a general laboratory areas where only small activities of radioisotopes are handled. The areas are demarcated by a yellow sign with the words "Supervised Radiation Area" and small radiation hazard warning sign.

Corresponding to the two types of area, there are two categories of exposed radiation workers:

Classified Radiation Workers: Those who are liable to receive a dose greater than 3/10ths of the annual dose limit are known as classified radiation workers. These workers must have a full medical examination including annual blood test.

Unclassified Radiation Worker: This applies to the majority of GU staff working with ionising radiation. No medical is required. Risk of over exposure is negligible provided handling limits and systems of work are followed.

In general only classified radiation workers are permitted in a controlled radiation area but other workers may have access provided they follow the procedures of an Approved Scheme of Work.