

Section 2

Licensing and Regulatory Controls

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Radioactive materials and radiation producing machines in the State of Washington are licensed or registered through the State of Washington Department of Health, Division of Radiation Protection. The state’s authority is derived from federal legislation, state legislation, and formal agreements with federal agencies.

A. Regulations

The DOH is given authority under the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) to establish rules and regulations pertaining to the control of ionizing radiation. These regulations are contained in Title 246 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

B. Radioactive Materials

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has entered into a formal agreement with the State of Washington Department of Health (DOH). This “Agreement State” status allows the state to exercise local control over the use of certain radioactive materials. Other radioactive materials not within the purview of the Agreement are controlled under state law alone. The DOH exercises this control by granting licenses for radioactive materials, promulgating regulations (closely compatible with NRC Regulations), and inspecting licensees.

1. License

The University of Washington is granted a “Type A License of Broad Scope,” often simply called a Broad License, by the DOH. The current license is numbered WN-C001-1. The Broad License allows flexibility that is essential to the function of a large education and research organization. At the same time, it requires the institution to exercise well-managed and documented internal control procedures.

2. Inspections

The DOH can inspect the University of Washington at any time to assure that it adheres to all regulations and license conditions. The inspections usually occur once each year and take 3 or more days to complete. In some years, the inspections are more frequent but shorter in duration. These inspections may include DOH visits to laboratories, hospitals, and other authorized facilities.

C. Radiation Producing Machines

The DOH has also been granted authority over “radiation producing machines” within the State of Washington. Radiation producing machines generally refers to machines producing x-rays (for diagnostic medical and dental use, radiation therapy, and research), but this category also includes high-energy particle accelerators.

1. Registration

A roughly equivalent process to licensing radioactive materials is registration of radiation producing machines. The DOH requires registration and inventory of all radiation producing machines within the state. The University is currently registered to have radiation producing machines in the following areas:

- Hall Health Clinic.
- Harborview Medical Center.
- General campus.
- Nuclear Physics Laboratory.
- Roosevelt Clinic.
- School of Dentistry.
- Sports Medicine Clinic.
- University of Washington Medical Center.

2. Inspections

As with the radioactive materials license, the DOH can inspect the University of Washington’s radiation producing machines program at any time. These inspections are at variable times and may cover part or all of the registered areas.