



Australian Government

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

Frequency of calibration of radiation detection instruments – guidance to licence holders

It is a condition attached to all licences authorising dealings with sources of ionising radiation that:

All monitoring instruments shall be calibrated when first taken into use and at annual intervals thereafter and following major repairs or service. Calibration shall be performed in a manner approved by the regulatory authority. Records shall be maintained of the date and results of all calibrations and be kept for two years after disposal of the instrument. The calibration should be traceable to a national standard for ionizing radiation.¹

It is apparent that this condition may be excessively onerous for certain applications and provide no net benefit to the health and safety of people or the environment.

I have therefore decided that the frequency of calibration required under this licence condition shall apply only to monitoring instruments used to make measurements such as radiation dose, dose rate or activity. Instruments used to make these kinds of measurements require annual calibration.

For instruments used solely to detect the presence or absence of radioactive contamination and from which no quantitative information (such as air concentration or surface contamination) is derived, the frequency of calibration may be extended to a maximum of five years. A routine functional test using a standard check source should provide a satisfactory level of confidence in the performance of instruments used for the purpose of detecting contamination.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Loy'.

John Loy
CEO of ARPANSA

April 2006

¹ Australian Standard AS 2243.4-1998 *Safety in laboratories Part 4: Ionizing radiations*