



Australian Government

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

REGULATORY GUIDE: Frequency of Calibration of Radiation Monitoring Instruments

Compliance with Australian Standard AS2243.4:1998 *Safety in Laboratories Part 4: Ionizing radiations* is a condition on all licences that authorise dealings with ionizing radiation sources. This Standard contains the following requirement with regard to calibration of radiation monitoring instruments:

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.

ARPANSA deems annual calibration to be excessively onerous in certain applications, with no net benefit to the health and safety of people or the environment.

Hence the frequency of 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, 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.

However, all monitoring instruments used to make measurements such as radiation dose, dose rate or activity, require annual calibration as per the Standard.

All the other calibration requirements such as traceability and record keeping must be observed.