



Australian Government

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

Invitation to Make Submissions

**NATIONAL DIRECTORY FOR RADIATION PROTECTION
Amendment No. XX, 2014**

Disposal of Radioactive Material

CONSULTATION DRAFT

13 June 2014

Closing date for submissions is **1 August 2014**.

Please send all submissions to:

Mr Peter Colgan
Manager, National Uniformity and Regulatory Systems
ARPANSA
PO Box 655
MIRANDA NSW 1490

Or by email to: national_uniformity@arpansa.gov.au
(**Electronic submissions are preferred**)

All submissions will be held in a register of submissions, and unless marked confidential, may be made public.

1 **NATIONAL DIRECTORY FOR RADIATION PROTECTION**

2 **Amendment No. XX, 2014**

3 **Disposal of Radioactive Material**

4 **Approved by Radiation Health Committee, ?? ?? 2014**

5
6 **3.2 Exemptions**

7 *Delete existing footnote 12*

8 ¹² All dealings with all radioactive material below the activity concentration or
9 activity levels in Schedule 4 of the Directory are exempt from regulation without
10 approach to the Authority. In relation to the transport of radioactive material,
11 the activity concentration levels for exempt material, the activity limits for
12 exempt consignments, and the modifying factor in clause 107(e) in the *Code of*
13 *Practice for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material* apply.

14 *Insert new footnote 12*

15 ¹² All dealings with all radioactive material below the activity concentration or
16 activity levels in Schedule 4 of the Directory, other than for the control of
17 discharges which are dealt with in clause 4.2.2, are exempt from regulation
18 without approach to the Authority. In relation to the transport of radioactive
19 material, the activity concentration levels for exempt material, the activity limits
20 for exempt consignments, and the modifying factor in clause 107(e) in the *Code*
21 *of Practice for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material* apply.

22 *Delete existing clause 3.2.7*

23 3.2.7 A radioactive source listed in Schedule 5 must be exempted from the
24 notification, registration or licensing requirements specified, subject to
25 disposal of radioactive waste meeting the requirements of Section 4.2.2
26 (in preparation) and Schedule 14 (in preparation).

27 *Insert new clause 3.2.7*

28 3.2.7 A radioactive source listed in Schedule 5 must be exempted from the
29 notification, registration or licensing requirements specified, subject to
30 disposal of that source meeting the requirements of Section 4.2.2.

31
32 **4.2 Requirements for authorising practices**

33 *Delete existing clause*

34 Requirements applied to authorisations for practices by the Authority must
35 include the set of requirements specified in Schedule 7 for the relevant
36 categories.

37 *Insert new clause 4.2.1*

38 4.2.1 Requirements applied to authorisations for practices by the Authority
39 must include the set of requirements specified in Schedule 7 for the
40 relevant categories.

41 *The following subsection is added to Section 4.2 in order to provide for disposal*
42 *of radioactive material by the user.*

43 *Insert new clause 4.2.2*

44 4.2.2 No authorisation is required to dispose of radioactive material if the
45 disposal is in accordance with Schedule 14.

46

47 **Schedule 5 – Exempt radiation generating apparatus,**
48 **electron tubes and radioactive sources**

49 *Delete existing footnote 20*

50 ²⁰ It should be noted that the provisions requiring authorisation prior to disposal
51 of radioactive materials still apply, unless the disposal is in accordance with
52 Schedule 14 (in preparation).

53 *Insert new footnote 20*

54 ²⁰ It should be noted that the provisions requiring authorisation prior to disposal
55 of radioactive materials still apply, unless the disposal is in accordance with
56 Schedule 14.

57

58 **Schedule 7 – Requirements for Licensing Specific Practices**

59 *Delete reference statement*

60 (Refer section 4.2)

61 *Insert reference statement*

62 (Refer section 4.2.1)

63

64 **Schedule 14 – Requirements for the disposal**
65 **of radioactive material by the user**

66 (Refer section 4.2.2)

67

68 *A new Schedule 14 is inserted as follows:*

69

70 For the purpose of Section 4.2.2, the radioactive material must meet the following
71 criteria:

72

73 ***S14.1 Disposal of Radioactive Material via Landfill***

74 Radioactive material for final placement into landfill must:

75 1. only be in solid form;

76 2. be contained within packaging designed so that:

77 (a) the smallest overall external dimension of each package is not less than 10 cm;

78 (b) the package can be easily handled;

79 (c) there are at least two complete layers of packaging between the radioactive
80 material and the exterior of the package, one layer of which is waterproof;

81 (d) the outer layer of each package:

82 (i) as far as practicable, prevents the collection and retention of water; and

83 (ii) can be easily decontaminated;

84 (e) as far as practicable, the packaging will retain its contents during transport to
85 the landfill site;

86 (f) no individual package contains more than the relevant Landfill Package Activity
87 Value in Column 2 of Table S14.1 of this Schedule;

88 (g) the dose-rate at the surface of any individual package does not exceed 5 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$;

89 (h) the maximum non-fixed external contamination on any individual package does
90 not exceed:

91 (i) 4 Bq/cm² for beta and gamma emitters; or

92 (ii) 0.4 Bq/cm² for alpha-emitters having a half-life greater than 10 days;

93 3. be limited to no more than 10 packages containing radioactive material from the
94 person initiating the disposal in any 7 day period at the one landfill site;

95 4. not be placed in the recycling waste stream; and

96 5. be recorded in a register that is kept by the person initiating the disposal.

97 **S14.2 Disposal of Radioactive Material via Sewer**

98 Radioactive material disposed into the sewerage system must:

- 99 1. consist only of aqueous materials,
 100 2. only be released so that:
 101 (i) the annual activity of a radioactive material from the site to a sewer does
 102 not exceed the value in column 3 of Table S14.1 of this Schedule; and
 103 (ii) the concentration at the input to a waste water treatment plant, calculated
 104 as the activity in (i) divided by the average annual dry weather flow through
 105 the waste water treatment plant to which the sewer connects, does not
 106 exceed that in column 4 of Table S14.1 of this Schedule; and
 107 3. be recorded in a register that is kept by the person initiating the disposal.

108

109 **S14.3 Disposal of Radioactive Material to the Atmosphere**

110

111 Radioactive material released into the atmosphere must be:

- 112 1. limited so that the annual activity released at the point of discharge does not
 113 exceed the Air Discharge Values in Column 5 of Table S14.1 of this Schedule; and
 114 2. recorded in a register that is kept by the person initiating the disposal.

115

116 **Table S14.1 Landfill Package Activity, Sewerage Discharge and Air**
 117 **Discharge Values for Periodic Disposal of Very Low-Level Radioactive**
 118 **Material**

| Column 1 | Column 2 Landfill Discharge Values | Column 3 Sewerage Discharge Values | Column 4 Sewerage Discharge Values | Column 5 Air Discharge Values |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Radionuclide | Landfill Package Activity Values ⁽¹⁾ (Bq) | Annual activity to sewer from a site ^{(1),(2)} (Bq) | Resultant concentration ⁽¹⁾ at input to a waste water treatment plant (Bq/m ³) | Annual activity released to atmosphere from the point of discharge ⁽¹⁾ (Bq) |
| ³ H | 10 ¹⁰ | 2.0 × 10 ¹¹ | 9.1 × 10 ⁶ | 1.0 × 10 ¹² |
| ¹⁴ C | 10 ⁸ | 1.8 × 10 ⁸ | 1.0 × 10 ³ | 1.0 × 10 ¹¹ |
| ¹⁸ F | 10 ⁷ | 2.3 × 10 ⁹ | 1.0 × 10 ⁵ | 2.5 × 10 ¹³ |
| ²² Na | 10 ⁷ | 1.0 × 10 ⁶ | 1.1 × 10 ⁰ | 1.0 × 10 ⁷ |
| ²⁴ Na | 10 ⁶ | 1.0 × 10 ⁸ | 1.1 × 10 ³ | 1.0 × 10 ¹⁰ |
| ³² P | 10 ⁶ | 1.0 × 10 ⁷ | 7.1 × 10 ⁰ | 1.0 × 10 ⁹ |
| ³³ P | 10 ⁹ | 3.0 × 10 ⁸ | 6.3 × 10 ¹ | 3.0 × 10 ¹⁰ |
| ³⁵ S(inorganic) | 10 ⁹ | 3.3 × 10 ⁸ | 1.1 × 10 ⁴ | 1.0 × 10 ⁹ |
| ³⁶ Cl | 10 ⁷ | 7.1 × 10 ⁶ | 3.3 × 10 ² | 1.0 × 10 ⁸ |
| ⁴⁵ Ca | 10 ⁸ | 3.0 × 10 ⁹ | 1.1 × 10 ⁵ | 1.0 × 10 ⁹ |
| ⁵¹ Cr | 10 ⁸ | 1.0 × 10 ⁹ | 1.1 × 10 ³ | 1.0 × 10 ¹⁰ |
| ⁵⁹ Fe | 10 ⁷ | 1.0 × 10 ⁷ | 1.1 × 10 ¹ | 1.0 × 10 ⁹ |
| ⁵⁷ Co | 10 ⁷ | 6.3 × 10 ⁸ | 1.6 × 10 ² | 1.0 × 10 ¹⁰ |
| ⁶⁰ Co | 10 ⁶ | 5.6 × 10 ⁶ | 7.9 × 10 ⁰ | 8.3 × 10 ⁹ |
| ⁶³ Ni | 10 ⁹ | 6.3 × 10 ¹⁰ | 6.6 × 10 ³ | 8.3 × 10 ¹² |
| ⁶⁵ Zn | 10 ⁷ | 7.0 × 10 ⁶ | 3.2 × 10 ² | 3.0 × 10 ¹⁰ |
| ⁶⁷ Ga | 10 ⁷ | 1.0 × 10 ⁹ | 1.1 × 10 ³ | 1.0 × 10 ¹¹ |

| Column 1 | Column 2 Landfill Discharge Values | Column 3 Sewerage Discharge Values | Column 4 Sewerage Discharge Values | Column 5 Air Discharge Values |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| Radionuclide | Landfill Package Activity Values ⁽¹⁾ (Bq) | Annual activity to sewer from a site ^{(1),(2)} (Bq) | Resultant concentration ⁽¹⁾ at input to a waste water treatment plant (Bq/m ³) | Annual activity released to atmosphere from the point of discharge ⁽¹⁾ (Bq) |
| ⁸⁵ Kr | 10 ⁵ | – | – | 7.7 × 10 ¹⁵ |
| ⁸⁹ Sr | 10 ⁷ | 2.0 × 10 ⁹ | 1.7 × 10 ³ | 1.0 × 10 ⁹ |
| ⁹⁰ Sr | 10 ⁵ | 1.0 × 10 ⁷ | 4.6 × 10 ² | 3.0 × 10 ¹⁰ |
| ⁹⁰ Y | 10 ⁶ | 4.2 × 10 ¹⁰ | 1.1 × 10 ⁵ | 1.0 × 10 ¹¹ |
| ⁹⁹ Mo | 10 ⁷ | 1.0 × 10 ⁹ | 1.1 × 10 ³ | 1.0 × 10 ¹⁰ |
| ⁹⁹ Tc | 10 ⁸ | 2.0 × 10 ⁶ | 8.9 × 10 ¹ | 1.0 × 10 ⁸ |
| ^{99m} Tc | 10 ⁸ | 7.0 × 10 ⁸ | 1.1 × 10 ⁴ | 1.0 × 10 ¹² |
| ¹¹¹ In | 10 ⁷ | 1.0 × 10 ⁹ | 1.1 × 10 ³ | 1.0 × 10 ¹⁰ |
| ¹²³ I | 10 ⁸ | 8.3 × 10 ⁹ | 1.1 × 10 ⁴ | 1.0 × 10 ¹¹ |
| ¹²⁵ I | 10 ⁷ | 1.0 × 10 ⁹ | 1.1 × 10 ³ | 1.0 × 10 ⁹ |
| ¹²⁹ I | 10 ⁶ | 1.8 × 10 ⁷ | 8.3 × 10 ² | 1.3 × 10 ⁹ |
| ¹³¹ I | 10 ⁷ | 1.0 × 10 ⁸ | 1.1 × 10 ² | 1.0 × 10 ⁹ |
| ¹³⁷ Cs | 10 ⁵ | 1.7 × 10 ⁷ | 5.1 × 10 ¹ | 1.4 × 10 ¹⁰ |
| ¹⁴⁷ Pm | 10 ⁸ | 1.0 × 10 ¹¹ | 1.1 × 10 ⁵ | 1.0 × 10 ¹¹ |
| ¹⁵³ Sm | 10 ⁷ | 3.2 × 10 ¹⁰ | 1.5 × 10 ⁶ | 6.3 × 10 ¹² |
| ²⁰¹ Tl | 10 ⁷ | 1.0 × 10 ⁹ | 1.1 × 10 ³ | 1.0 × 10 ¹¹ |
| ²²³ Ra | 10 ⁶ | 1.3 × 10 ⁸ | 5.7 × 10 ³ | 5.9 × 10 ⁸ |
| ²⁴¹ Am | 10 ⁵ | 1.3 × 10 ⁸ | 5.8 × 10 ³ | 1.0 × 10 ⁸ |
| | | | | |
| Radionuclides not listed in this Table | 10 times the exemption limit for that radionuclide | | | |

119

Notes

120

(1) When there is a mixture of radionuclides in the material to be disposed of to landfill, to a sewer or to air:

121

122

$$\sum_i \frac{C_i}{X_i} \leq 1$$

123

Where C_i is the activity or activity concentration of each isotope i to be disposed of, and

124

125

X_i is the activity or activity concentration discharge value, as appropriate, as given in Table S14.1 for each isotope i .

126

127

(2) A 'site' may be, for example, a university or a hospital from which there could be several individual points of disposal to the one sewer. The activities in this column are the total activity discharged from that site to the one sewer.

128

129

130

131 A new Annex 4 is inserted as follows:

132 **Annex 4 – Disposal of radioactive material by the** 133 **user**

134 **Introduction**

135 Radioactive material is used extensively in medical, research and industrial
136 applications. While the use of radioactive material has significant medical, research
137 and industrial benefits, there is often a need to dispose of waste material generated
138 during the particular process. As ionising radiation can be detrimental to human
139 health and the broader environment, it is important to dispose of unwanted radioactive
140 material with minimum effect on the health and safety of people and the environment.

141 Previously, requirements on the disposal of unwanted radioactive material by the user
142 was contained in the NHMRC in its Radiation Health Series publication number 13, the
143 *Code of Practice for the Disposal of Radioactive Wastes by the User* (1985) (RHS13)
144 (NHMRC 1985). RHS13 provided a means of determining activities of radioactive
145 material that could be approved for disposal to sewer or to landfill. Disposal of higher
146 activities of radioactive material required additional consultation with and approval of
147 the regulatory authority. The activity values calculated using RHS13 were based on
148 'reasonable' assumptions but not on any specific exposure scenarios.

149 **Review of disposal requirements**

150 Following a review of RHS13, the Radiation Health Committee (RHC) concluded that
151 an agreed set of activities and activity concentrations for each commonly used isotope
152 be prepared to promote a uniform approach to disposal of radioactive material in
153 Australia. The RHC specified that the revised requirements should include disposal to
154 landfill, sewer and atmosphere.

155 Further, RHC agreed that the values be such that no approval of the relevant regulatory
156 authority would be required if the person were to dispose of the material with an
157 activity or activity concentration below the value specified for the particular isotope.
158 Where, however, this were not the case, regulatory approval would be required.

159 **The revised approach**

160 The NDRP entry and Schedule to replace RHS13 was developed to:

- 161 • be as simple as possible but as complex as necessary,
- 162 • have regard to current national and international guidance on disposal and
163 discharge of radioactive material including the requirements for disposal and
164 discharges of radioactive material in the IAEA Basic Safety Standards (IAEA
165 2012),
- 166 • have regard to currently available methodologies and international experience in
167 dealing with disposal and discharge of radioactive material by users in hospitals,
168 universities, etc.,
- 169 • take account of likely exposure of people and of the environment,
- 170 • be based on conservative but realistic, documented scenarios and modelling
171 considered applicable to Australian conditions,

- 172 • consider the direction of the *Fundamentals for Protection Against Ionising*
173 *Radiation* and *Code of Practice for Planned Exposure Situations* (ARPANSA
174 2014), and
- 175 • consider current practice in all Australian jurisdictions.

176 In applying these criteria, values expressed as an annual activity to account for
177 exposure of people and an activity concentration for exposure of the environment were
178 considered to be the simplest parameters.

179 Thus, NDRP entry 4.2.1 and the corresponding set of values in Schedule 14 represent
180 activities and concentrations below which *no* approval for disposal and discharge would
181 be required. This addresses an omission from RHS13, where approval was required for
182 all disposal and discharge of radioactive material to sewer and to landfill. RHS13 did
183 not address disposal to atmosphere (NHMRC 1985).

184 Thus, any person would be able to dispose of radioactive material below the activity
185 specified in Schedule 14 to landfill. Further, any person could discharge radioactive
186 material to a waterway or to the atmosphere below the specified activities and
187 concentrations.

188 The specifications of the activities and concentrations were based on model sites such
189 as universities or hospitals from which the discharges were made and from which there
190 could be several individual points of disposal to the one sewer. The specified activities
191 were therefore the total activity discharged from each site or facility to the one sewer.

192 The values of activity and concentration in Schedule 14 are *not* limits and it is not
193 intended to suggest that higher values would be unacceptable. The values are merely
194 estimates above which approval for disposal is required. Disposal or discharge above
195 these values can be acceptable but would require approval. The values in Table S14.1
196 are therefore screening values below which *no* approval is required.

197 **The derivation of values for Schedule 14**

198 **The dose criterion for disposal by the user**

199 Although each isotope has an exemption activity and exemption activity concentration
200 as set by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and adopted into this
201 Directory, the IAEA makes clear that these exemption levels are not intended to apply
202 to the control of discharges (IAEA 2012).

203 It was therefore considered necessary to derive values for disposal to landfill, sewerage
204 and the atmosphere that could be justified in accordance with international doctrine.

205 As discussed in Annex 2, exemption levels were derived based on scenarios where the
206 maximum effective dose to an exposed individual would not be greater than 10 μ Sv a
207 year under plausible normal circumstances.

208 Given the restricted opportunity for the likely exposure of people to radiation from the
209 disposal of radioactive material by the means specified in Schedule 14, the threshold
210 value for exposure of any person above which approval would be required was set at
211 100 μ Sv a year. Disposal of radioactive material with activity (and activity
212 concentration where relevant) below the values in Schedule 14 would result in the
213 exposure of a person of less than 100 μ Sv a year and would not harm the environment.
214 Disposal of radioactive material below these values does not require approval.

215 It should be noted that where regulatory approval is required, i.e. when the values in
216 Schedule 14 are exceeded, the radiation regulator is likely to have some restrictions on
217 exposure, such as 300 μSv a year from any one source of radiation exposure or a limit
218 of 1 000 μSv a year to any person from all sources of radiation exposure. The person
219 initiating the disposal might then need to carry out an assessment to show that these
220 exposures will not be exceeded and that there will be no harm to the environment.

221 **The models used to estimate exposure of people and the** 222 **environment**

223 Many of the models available for estimating exposures of people and the environment
224 from disposal and discharges use an approach in line with that presented in IAEA
225 Safety Report Series No. 19 (IAEA 2001). This approach uses simple transfer
226 parameters that take account of several environmental processes, and implicitly
227 assumes a state of equilibrium between the concentration in water or air and other
228 environmental materials.

229 Once the concentration of discharged radionuclides in environmental materials is
230 estimated, the routes by which 'receptors', such as representative members of the
231 public, might come into contact with the discharged material are identified and a
232 critical group determined.

233 This approach was considered appropriate for facilities where the application of annual
234 averages is suitable.

235 In the models selected to generate the values for Schedule 14, two main categories of
236 exposure were considered:

- 237 • External exposure from radionuclides present in the air or in material
238 incorporated in, for example, soils or sediment, and
- 239 • Internal exposure from the inhalation or ingestion of radionuclides present in air
240 or incorporated in water or foods respectively.

241 The relative importance of different exposure pathways were dependent on the:

- 242 • magnitude of the discharge,
- 243 • route of discharge,
- 244 • physical and chemical characteristics of the radionuclides discharged, and
- 245 • characteristics of the radioactive decay.

246 Values obtained using this methodology tend to be highly conservative and therefore
247 are suitable for use for screening.

248 It was considered that regulators would benefit from adopting such generic models for
249 assessing radiation dose to exposed persons.

250 **Disposal to landfill**

251 Scenarios adopted in the Commission of the European Communities were used to
252 obtain the activities for disposal to landfill (EC 1993). Disposal to landfill is one of the
253 scenarios considered in this European document and is not the most restrictive
254 scenario for all radioisotopes. The landfill scenarios include exposure of the public
255 from accidental tampering with the radioactive source and from inhalation, ingestion

256 and skin exposure pathways. The landfill site is assumed to be a generic small site with
257 a capacity of domestic waste of 1.5×10^4 tonnes over an area of 1×10^{-2} km².

258 The use of the values from that document therefore provides some conservatism in the
259 estimation of radiation exposures.

260 Based on the rationale described in the dose criterion above, the landfill package
261 activity values were calculated as ten times the exemption activity level listed in
262 Schedule 4 of this Directory.

263 **Disposal to sewer**

264 The derived levels of radioactive waste for disposal to the sewer by the user were based
265 on calculation of the annual activity of radioactive material that could result in a dose of
266 100 µSv in a year to the most exposed individual and a concentration that would result
267 in an exposure rate of less than 10 µGy h⁻¹ to the most exposed organism.

268 **Exposure of people**

269 Three methodologies were considered to determine exposure to people. Two
270 methodologies were from the UK – that for calculation of Generalised Derived
271 Constraints (GDCs) (NRPB 2000, NRPB 2010) and that for the ‘Initial radiological
272 assessment methodology’ (Environment Agency 2006), which is based on dose per unit
273 release (DPUR) data. The third methodology is that used by the IAEA to calculate
274 clearance values in its Tecdoc-1000 (IAEA 1998). It was noted that these models and
275 data were developed for application in temperate European and North American
276 conditions but were deemed applicable for the Australian situation, particularly in the
277 urban areas where such disposal is likely to occur.

278 Estimates of the annual activities of radioactive materials that would not result in an
279 annual dose above 100 µSv were derived using each methodology. Table S14.1 contains
280 the minimum of the available values.

281 All three approaches base their modelling on principles similar to those described in
282 IAEA Safety Series 19 (IAEA 2001) but make different assumptions. The three data
283 sources combined included all the isotopes in the NDRP Schedule. None of the three
284 approaches considered exposure of the environment.

285 The methodologies considered three main exposure groups and relevant age groups
286 (infants, adults, etc.) within each group and base their recommendations on the most
287 restrictive scenario.

288 The three exposure groups considered were:

- 289 1. Sewage plant workers who were considered to spend a working year at the waste
290 water treatment plant and who were exposed to radionuclides in sludge and
291 effluent. Exposure from external radiation, inhalation and ingestion were
292 considered.
- 293 2. Members of the public who were exposed to radionuclides in river water that has
294 received treated effluent. Exposures occurred due to:
 - 295 • external exposure from sediments,
 - 296 • drinking water and eating fish from the river, and
 - 297 • producing and consuming green vegetables and potatoes on land irrigated by
298 the river water.

299 3. Members of the public assumed to live adjacent to farmland treated repeatedly
300 with sewage sludge and to consume animal products produced from the treated
301 land – foods consumed were assumed to have been produced on treated
302 farmland, intakes were assumed to be at critical group levels.

303 (The IAEA methodology did not consider the transfer of radionuclides to the terrestrial
304 food chains due to irrigation or treatment with sewage sludge.)

305 Each methodology made conservative, but slightly different assumptions.

306 Both UK methodologies assumed that the dry weather flow through the waste water
307 treatment plant was $\sim 60 \text{ m}^3 \text{ day}^{-1}$, serving a population of 400 people. The IAEA
308 assumed a plant that was 40 times larger.

309 The GDC calculation assumed that workers were exposed to sludge for 1000 hours a
310 year; the DPUR calculation assumed exposure for 500 hours a year and the IAEA
311 methodology assumed exposure for 2000 hours a year.

312 The GDC and IAEA calculations assumed that all the radionuclide remained in effluent
313 and that all the radionuclide remained in sludge. The DPUR calculations partitioned
314 the radionuclide between effluent and sludge.

315 The DPUR calculations were modified to allow exposure of workers to sludge for 1000
316 hours a year and to remove the partitioning between effluent and sludge, thus making
317 the assumptions closer to those used for the GDC calculations.

318 The GDCs are the discharge rates to a sewer given in Bq y^{-1} and are based on a dose
319 criterion of $300 \mu\text{Sv y}^{-1}$. The IAEA also specified clearance values (IAEA 1998) although
320 these were based on $10 \mu\text{Sv y}^{-1}$ exposure scenarios. The DPUR methodology resulted in
321 values for the dose, in $\mu\text{Sv y}^{-1}$, resulting from a discharge of 1 Bq y^{-1} for various exposure
322 pathways and age groups.

323 Therefore in order to determine values for this Directory, GDC values were divided by
324 three to equate to $100 \mu\text{Sv y}^{-1}$. Conversely, the IAEA clearance values were multiplied
325 by a factor of 10. The (worst case, modified) DPUR values were scaled to yield the
326 activity that corresponded to a dose of $100 \mu\text{Sv y}^{-1}$.

327 The most restrictive annual activity is listed in Table S14.1.

328 Although the three data sources gave different values, the agreement was reasonable
329 for common radionuclides and the use of values from documented sources was
330 considered to be the best approach. A person wishing to discharge radioactive material
331 can use this information as a basis for calculations of potential exposures from higher
332 activities of radioactive material.

333 **Protection of the environment**

334 A screening dose rate value of $10 \mu\text{Gy h}^{-1}$ to biota was used as the no-effect level, below
335 which environmental risks would be negligible.

336 Corresponding concentrations in freshwater and the marine environment were then
337 calculated using the Erica assessment tool.

338 The Erica assessment tool (Brown et al 2008) (free download available) provides values
339 of Environmental Media Concentration Limits (EMCLs) for water and sediment in
340 freshwater and marine environments in its parameters database – risk

341 characterisation. These EMCLs represent the lowest concentration derived from water
342 or sediment for freshwater or marine environments below which all biota would receive
343 an exposure of less than 10 $\mu\text{Gy h}^{-1}$. The concentration in water (freshwater or marine)
344 corresponding to the EMCL in sediment was obtained by dividing the sediment
345 concentration by the distribution coefficient (Kd).

346 The minimum concentration obtained by these calculations for each isotope in the
347 Erica database was used in the derivation of values for Table S14.1.

348 The exit point from a waste water (sewage) treatment plant was chosen as the
349 calculation point for the concentrations derived from the Erica assessment tool. The
350 activity concentration at the exit point was taken as equal to that at the input to the
351 plant.

352 Concentrations at the input to the waste water treatment plant corresponding to the
353 annual activity obtained for the three methodologies for protection of people, discussed
354 above, were calculated. The concentration at the input to a waste water treatment plant
355 listed in Table S14.1 is the minimum of the available concentrations (for protection of
356 people and of the environment) for each isotope.

357 The environment considerations are very conservative and the most limiting organism
358 may not even be present in many disposal situations. However, as the Schedule is
359 intended for screening purposes, the use of the most conservative value for each
360 radionuclide was necessary hence the requirement in Schedule 14 for both the activity
361 and the activity concentration to be met for disposal to sewer.

362 Not all the isotopes in Table S14.1 are contained in the Erica assessment tool and
363 concentration values will be reviewed as more Erica data become available.

364 **Disposal to atmosphere**

365 The same three methodologies discussed above were used to generate annual activities
366 that could be dispersed to atmosphere with no approval. The calculations included
367 those of doses arising from inhalation, external exposure and ingestion. Several
368 assumptions were made regarding:

- 369 • discharge point height above ground,
- 370 • wind patterns,
- 371 • distance to closest human habitation,
- 372 • distance to farmland,
- 373 • consumption of food (crops and animal products) from this farmland, and
- 374 • build-up of radionuclides in the environment.

375 Again, radiation doses were calculated for methodologies available for each
376 radionuclide cases and the most restrictive level was used as the value in Table S14.1.

377 **Applicability of the values in Schedule 14 to short-term releases**

378 Radioactive material discharged to the aquatic environment generally occurs over a
379 short period each day and discharges are unlikely to be continuous.

380 The three methodologies used to generate annual activities in Table S14.1 assumed that
381 the activity is discharged continuously and uniformly throughout the year. Given the

382 other uncertainties in the assessment process, the results based on continuous release
383 were considered appropriate for these normal operational daily variations in
384 discharges.

385 **References**

386 Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency 2014, *Fundamentals for the the*
387 *Protection Against Ionising Radiation*, Radiation Protection Series No. 1 (RPS 1),
388 ARPANSA (2014).

389 Brown, J.E., Alfonso, B., Avila, R., Beresford, N.A., Copplestone, D., Pröhl, G., Ulanovsky, A.
390 (2008). *The ERICA Tool*. Journal of Environmental Radioactivity 99, 1371–1383.

391 Commission of the European Communities, The (EC) (1993) – 65 *Principles and Methods for*
392 *Establishing Concentrations and Quantities (Exemption values) below which Reporting*
393 *is not Required in the European Directive* (1993)

394 Environment Agency 2006, *Initial radiological assessment methodology – part 2 methods and*
395 *input data* Science Report SC030162/SR2, United Kingdom.

396 International Atomic Energy Agency 1998, IAEA Tecdoc 1000 *Clearance of materials resulting*
397 *from the use of radionuclides in medicine, industry and research* (Data from Tables III
398 and IV), IAEA, Vienna.

399 International Atomic Energy Agency 2001, *Generic Models for Use in Assessing the Impact of*
400 *Discharges of Radioactive Substances to the Environment*, Safety Reports Series 19,
401 IAEA, Vienna.

402 International Atomic Energy Agency 2010, IAEA-Tecdoc 1638 *Setting Authorized Limits For*
403 *Radioactive Discharges: Practical Issues To Consider Report For Discussion*, Vienna.

404 International Atomic Energy Agency 2012, *Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation*
405 *Sources: International Basic Safety Standards*, Interim Edition General Safety
406 Requirements Part 3 No. GSR Part 3 (Interim), IAEA, Vienna.

407 National Health and Medical Research Council 1985, *Code of practice for the disposal of*
408 *radioactive wastes by the user* (1985), RHS 13, Canberra.

409 National Radiological Protection Board 2000, Documents of the NRPB Vol 11 No 2. *Generalised*
410 *Derived Constraints for Radioisotopes of Strontium, Ruthenium, Iodine, Caesium,*
411 *Plutonium, Americium and Curium*, NRPB.

412 National Radiological Protection Board 2010, HPA-CRCE-004, *Generalised Derived*
413 *Constraints for Radioisotopes of Hydrogen, Carbon, Phosphorus, Sulphur, Chromium,*
414 *Manganese, Cobalt, Zinc, Selenium, Technetium, Antimony, Thorium and Neptunium,*
415 HPA.

416 **Other documents consulted**

417 • *Recommendations for the Discharge of Patients Undergoing Treatment with*
418 *Radioactive Substances* (2002), Radiation Protection Series No. 4 (RPS 4), ARPANSA.

419 • *Code of Practice for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material* (2008 Edition),
420 Radiation Protection Series No. 2 (RPS 2), ARPANSA.

421 • *Safety Guide for Classification of Radioactive Waste* (2010), Radiation Protection Series
422 No. 20 (RPS 20), ARPANSA.

423 • ARPANSA Regulatory Guide: *Plans & Arrangements for Managing Safety* v4 2013