

Radiation generators and registration: a message to employers

HSE are requiring employers with radiation generators to provide them with more information. Radiation generators are machines that produce ionising radiation, for example x-ray machines in a mail room. Radiation generators are not used in school science departments and are therefore not covered by SSERC.

Employers with radiation generators will have to seek advice from a radiation protection adviser who specialises in this area. If an employer has a radiation generator, they will be required to re-register under IRR17. This will also involve informing HSE of school radioactive

sources, and we have produced guidance to help. Please note that some schools have a radioactive source called a protactinium generator. Despite the name, this is not a radiation generator though it does emit radiation. <<

On the subject of protactinium generators

No school should have a protactinium generator (Figure 1) that is more than 8 years old. If you have one, please get in touch with us and we will advise you about disposal.

Whilst this will not be cheap, it must be done. Keeping it could turn out to be the falsest of false economies should it leak. The full reasons behind this are explained in [Bulletin 268](#). <<



Figure 1 - Protactinium generator.