



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology

PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE



24 February 2022

PNRI INFORMATION NOTICE 2022-02

NEW REGULATION: CPR PART 31, "LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR BLOOD IRRADIATORS", Rev. 0

ADDRESSEES

All PNRI licensees and applicants of license for the use of sealed sources in blood irradiators

PURPOSE

The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) is issuing this Information Notice to inform current license holders and applicants of the publication of the new Code of PNRI Regulations (CPR) Part 31, "Licensing Requirements for Blood Irradiators", Rev. 0 in the Official Gazette Vol. 118 No. 01 on 03 January 2022. CPR Part 31 prescribes the requirements for applications of new licenses, license amendments, and renewals and further provides for the administrative, safety, and security requirements for the use of self-contained gamma irradiators used to irradiate blood and other blood components.

DISCUSSION

For years, blood irradiators have been extensively used in various hospitals, blood banks, academic and research institutions for the irradiation of blood and blood products with gamma rays for clinical and research purposes. They contain either ^{137}Cs or ^{60}Co sources with typical radioactivity ranging from tens to hundreds of terabecquerel (TBq). They are self-contained devices in which the shielding required for operation is an integral part of the device, and human access to the sealed source and the products undergoing irradiation is not physically possible during its operation. Its design configuration ensures safety of the source; hence, the only major safety issue is on the proper disposal of disused sources.

In the past, the PNRI issued specific license to authorize the possession and use of sealed sources contained in blood irradiators in accordance with the provisions of CPR Part 2, "Licensing of Radioactive Materials". In 2013, the PNRI issued a Bulletin

No. 2013-02, entitled, "Guidance for Blood Irradiators", that provided guidance to licensees to comply with the regulatory requirements by describing the information needed specific to blood irradiator licensing, inspection and monitoring, and relevant recordkeeping requirements.

The development of CPR Part 31 underwent a thorough review process through series of consultations and discussions prior to its approval. In general, the new CPR provides for specific regulatory requirements as they apply to self-contained blood irradiators, commensurate with the degree of complexity of procedures and associated risks.

The CPR Part 31, Rev. 0 is now available and can be downloaded from the PNRI website (www.pnri.dost.gov.ph).

REQUIRED LICENSEE RESPONSE

All current holders of Radioactive Material License for the use of sources in blood irradiators are directed to review the regulation and to make necessary revisions in its Radiation Protection and Safety Program, as appropriate and applicable, to reflect the changes and additional requirements necessary for compliance.

CONTACT

If you have any question about the information in this Notice, please contact:

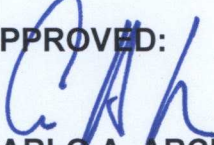
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