



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology

PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE



NRD REGULATORY BULLETIN No. 16-01

April 26, 2016

**AMENDMENT OF AUTHORIZATION ISSUED BY THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY
DIVISION (NRD) TO PNRI NUCLEAR AND RADIATION FACILITIES AND
LABORATORIES**

ADDRESSEES

For Action - All Authorized Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) Nuclear and Radiation Facilities and Laboratories

PURPOSE

This Bulletin is issued to remind operators of PNRI Nuclear and Radiation Facilities and Laboratories of the specific regulatory requirements regarding the amendment of a written authorization issued to the PNRI facility or laboratory through the Radiation Safety & Security Board (RSSB). Letter/Memo request for amendment of the authorization is necessary before the facility can implement any intended change in the authorization or general and special authorization conditions as prescribed by the regulations. This requirement is provided in Section 35 of Code of PNRI Regulation (CPR) Part 2, "Licensing of Radioactive Material" and other applicable Parts and section of the CPR. The letter/memo for amendment of an authorization shall be filed, and shall specify in what respect the PNRI facility or laboratory desires his authorization to be amended. It is expected that all PNRI nuclear and radiation facilities and laboratories will review this Bulletin and consider appropriate actions in order to ensure proper compliance with the PNRI regulations.

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES

Over the past years, the Nuclear Regulatory Division (NRD) has become aware of cases wherein changes in the conditions of the authorization are implemented by the PNRI operators before receiving an amended authorization.

The following were observed during regulatory inspections at PNRI facilities or laboratories:

1. That the individual designated as the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) in the authorization had resigned and had been replaced by another staff. The facility or laboratory designated a new RSO without notifying NRD or requesting for an amendment of the authorization. It was also found out that the new RSO had no basic training required for an RSO on safety and security of radioactive materials.

2. Radioactive sources or large equipment containing radioactive sources were transferred from one laboratory to another without prior notification to NRD. This action violates the authorized location of use of the sources listed in the authorization since no amendment was filed or received before the transfer was carried out.
3. The authorized facility/laboratory filed for amendment of the authorization only after receiving the new sources purchased through PNRI. Amendment should be filed when the purchase request for the procurement of additional or replacement sources are already approved, so that an amended authorization is received before the new sources are delivered.
4. Construction or upgrading of laboratories has been undertaken without prior approval by the NRD. Although this is a PNRI project, authorized facilities are expected to notify NRD for the impending location of storage of radioactive sources listed in the authorization.

DISCUSSIONS

Pursuant to PNRI Office Order No. 002 Series of 2004, Regulatory Control Program for PNRI Nuclear and Radiation Facilities and Laboratories, the NRD (formerly Nuclear Regulations, Licensing and Safeguards Division) is mandated to adopt and enforce the administrative and technical requirements of the applicable Parts and Sections of the Code of PNRI Regulations.

A PNRI facility or laboratory shall apply for and must receive an amendment of the authorization before it can:

- a) Use the radioactive material covered in the authorization for purposes other than those specified in the authorization;
- b) Use or store said radioactive material in locations other than those specified in the authorization;
- c) Use the same radionuclides in quantities exceeding those specified in the authorization for the purposes and at the locations specified in the authorization;
- d) Change personnel listed therein, e.g. the authorized individual user(s), the person designated as Radiation Safety Officer, etc.;
- e) Make major change in the equipment and facilities in which the authorized radioactive material is stored, used or handled;
- f) Possess at any one time radioactive sources in excess of the activity authorized in the authorization;
- g) Relocate or modify the storage area described in the authorization for the radioactive sources;
- h) Implement any major change in the approved radiation safety program.

Without the required NRD approval of an amendment to the authorization, any activity performed by the PNRI facility or laboratory that is in contrary to the conditions of the original authorization is unauthorized and is deemed to violate the regulations and the terms of the authorization.

In the case where the sudden departure of the RSO, whether it was unannounced or without notice to management, would create a safety issue, there should be a designated Assistant RSO who can assume the responsibilities. However, the PNRI facility or laboratory must still promptly notify NRD of the situation and request for an amendment of the authorization.

Disregarding this requirement is a material basis for the imposition of administrative sanctions in accordance with the penal provisions of the CPR. If the PNRI facility or laboratory has been cited repetitively for the same offense, he will be required to explain why his authorization should not be suspended or revoked.

REQUIRED ACTION BY AUTHORIZED FACILITIES/LABORATORIES

All PNRI facilities and laboratories must ensure that the provisions of the applicable Parts and Sections of the Code of PNRI Regulations and the conditions of their authorization are satisfactorily addressed to prevent unnecessary disruption of authorized activities. The PNRI facilities and laboratories are encouraged to uphold their commitment to protect human health and the environment from unnecessary exposure to radiation and to keep radiation exposure to the workers and the general public and releases of radioactivity to the environment below regulatory limits.

Please acknowledge receipt of this bulletin by mail or fax to the contact person.

CONTACT PERSON

If you have any questions about this Bulletin, please contact:

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APPROVED:


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