

<b>Policy Title:</b> WorkSafe BC Regulation – Ionizing Radiation	
<b>Section:</b> Quality Management	<b>Reference No.</b> SG 060
<b>Effective:</b> December 1999	<b>Revision:</b> December 2017

## 1. SCOPE

All Breast Screening Centre Staff  
Breast Screening Program Chief Radiologists  
Radiology Managers

## 2. POLICY

On October 1, 1999, the Workers Compensation Amendment Act (Occupational Health & Safety Regulation - OHSR) came into effect, changing the way occupational health and safety is administered in BC. The Occupational Health & Safety Regulation contains legal requirements that must be met by all workplaces under the inspectional jurisdiction of the WCB. This includes all the mammography centres in British Columbia. A copy of the regulation is included here.

## 3. PROCEDURE

The following items of the regulation deal with the use of ionizing radiation in the workplace:

### Operation of Equipment

OHSR 7.23 Equipment producing ionizing radiation used for mammography must be installed, operated and maintained in accordance with the latest edition of Health Canada Safety Code 36\*, Radiation Protection in Mammography.

### Exposure Limits

- 1) OHSR 7.19 A worker's exposure to ionizing radiation must be limited to:
  - a) an annual effective dose of 20 mSv and
  - b) an annual equivalent dose of
    - (i) 150 mSv to the lens of the eye
    - (ii) 500 mSv to the skin, averaged over any 1cm<sup>2</sup> regardless of the area exposed and
    - (iii) 500 mSv to the hands and feet
- 2) Once a worker has declared her pregnancy in writing, her effective dose, for the remainder of the pregnancy, from external and internal sources, must be limited to the lesser of:
  - a) 4 mSv, or

- b) the dose limit specified for pregnant workers under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act (Canada),

**Note:** The external dose referenced in subsection (2) is measured at the abdomen.

- 3) OHSR 7.20 If a worker exceeds, or may exceed an action level, ionizing radiation or action level, non-ionizing radiation, the employer must develop and implement an exposure control plan meeting as per the requirements of section 5.54(2).

### **Monitoring Exposure**

OHSR 7.22 Unless exempted by the Board, if a worker exceeds or may exceed the action level, ionizing radiation, the employer must ensure that the worker is provided with and properly uses a personal dosimeter acceptable to the Board.

### **Records**

- 1) OHSR 7.25 The employer must maintain and make available to the Board,
  - (i) for at least ten (10) years, records of radiation surveys, and
  - (ii) for the period that the worker is employed plus 10 years, records of exposure monitoring and personal dosimetry data.
- 2) The records must be available to workers.

### **Reproductive Hazards**

- 1) OHSR 7.21 The employer must ensure that every worker who exceeds, or may exceed the action level, ionizing radiation is fully informed of any potential reproductive hazards associated with exposure to ionizing radiation.
- 2) When requested by a pregnant worker or by a worker intending to conceive a child, the employer must make counselling available with respect to the reproductive hazards associated with exposure to ionizing radiation.

If you have any questions regarding the WorkSafe BC Regulation pertaining to ionizing radiation, contact the Professional Practice Leader – SMP Technologists

## **4. RELATED POLICIES**

## **5. RESPONSIBLE PARTY**

Professional Practice Leader – Breast Screening Technologists

Regulation Part 7 Noise, Vibration, Radiation and Temperature- Tuesday March 20, 2007  
Division 3 Radiation Exposure  
See sections 7.17 to 7.25 Work Safe BC

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation/part-07-noise-vibration-radiation-and-temperature#SectionNumber:7.17>