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GUIDELINE ON REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR RADIATION WORKERS

To guide the relevant authority holders involved in the decision to subject radiation workers to radiation to make informed and correct request for such examination, thereby protecting the radiation workers from unnecessary exposure to ionizing radiation.

Document History

Final Version	Reason for Amendment	Effective Date [dd Month yyyy]
1	First issue	16 July 2009
2	Content structured on the latest SAHPRA Guideline template	13 February 2024

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Glossary

Abbreviation/ Term	Meaning
Act 15	Hazardous Substance Act 15 of 1973 (Act No.15 of 1973)
Act 56	The Health Profession Act, 1974 (Act No. of 1974)
Appropriately trained radiation worker and registered healthcare	any appropriately trained person with knowledge and experience of the basic principles of radiation protection and registered health professional
HPCSA	Health Professionals Council of South Africa
R247	Regulations 247 relating to Group IV Hazardous Substances of Act 15 of 1973
SAHPRA	South African Health Product Regulatory Authority

1. INTRODUCTION

The use of Group IV Hazardous Substance is restricted by R247 to radiation workers with basic principles of radiation protection and safety relevant to their role, in order to limit overexposure caused by human error.

1.1 Purpose

To guide the relevant authority holders involved in the decision to subject radiation workers to radiation to make informed and correct request for such examination, thereby protecting the radiation workers from unnecessary exposure to ionizing radiation.

1.2 Scope

This guideline is applicable to the relevant authority holders involved in requisitions for medical examination for radiation workers to ensure their protection from unnecessary exposure to ionizing radiation.

2. LEGAL PROVISION

The SAHPRA Radiation control regulates ionizing devices as promulgated by the Hazardous Substances Act 15 of 1973 with its related regulations.

3. REQUEST FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

3.1 Guidelines for requests

- 3.1.1 Before any person is appointed as a radiation worker, (s)he must undergo a medical examination.
- 3.1.2 Medical examinations for radiation workers should follow general occupational medical practice for determining fitness for work.
- 3.1.3 Each radiation worker will be required to undergo a medical examination in the event of the following:
 - 3.1.3.1 When a radiation occurrence/ incident resulting in an abnormally high dose is suspected to have taken place or has been confirmed.
 - 3.1.3.2 When a medical practitioner deems it necessary.
 - 3.1.3.3 When such an examination is considered necessary either by the regulatory authority or the holder of the authority, and
 - 3.1.3.4 When the radiation worker suspects that his/ her health has been, or will be, adversely

affected by occupational factors.

NOTE: Annual medical examinations are no longer required by SAHPRA but remain the prerogative of the authority holder should (s)he deem it necessary.

4. REFERENCES

The following related documents are referenced:

- 4.1 International Basic Safety Standards for Protection Against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. 115, Safety Standards. IAEA, February 1996
- 4.2 R247 – Regulations related to Group IV of the Hazardous Substances Act, 1973 (Act No.15 of 1973)

5. VALIDITY

This guideline is valid for a period of 5 years from the effective date of revision and replaces the old guideline on The Request for Medical Examination for Radiation Workers, established July 2009. It will be reviewed on this timeframe or as and when required.