

ANNUAL X-RAY INSPECTION REPORT 2010 RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A total of 80 x-ray facilities were inspected in 2009. Out of the 80 facilities 34 were in full compliance at the time of the inspection.

The main areas of concern are the darkroom, changing viewbox light bulbs on a regular basis, satisfactory lead aprons, and screen cleaning. Chiropractic facilities need to record the technique factors for each patient (in their file or in a logbook) and perform the repeat rate analysis. Dental facilities need to keep watch on the kVp of their x-ray machines.

Annual dose rates to all operators of x-ray equipment of the facilities inspected were less than the maximum allowed limit of 5000 millirem. Annual dose rates to the public were less than the maximum allowed limit of 100 millirem except for one facility.

The entrance skin exposure to the patient was within the appropriate limit for all facilities.

The dose to the patient and the dose to the operator are decreased for all x-ray facilities that use faster speed film.

This can be observed most clearly for the dental facilities. As the speed of the film increases from "D" to "F" the average dose per exposure decreases from 0.45 to 0.26 millirem. It should also be noted that the use of digital x-ray again decreases the average dose per exposure from 0.26 millirem for "F" speed film to 0.13 millirem for direct digital x-rays. Doses from computed radiography (CR) are similar to doses from F speed film (0.21 and 0.26 millirem, respectively).

It is expected that as more digital x-rays are used we will see decreases in the total facility noncompliances because darkrooms, safelights, film, and processing are no longer needed. Forty percent of dental, 17% of veterinary, 30% of medical, and 8% of chiropractic facilities are using digital x-ray.

OVERVIEW

To be conservative, exposures to the operator and public are measured at the configuration of highest exposure possible. Exposure to the public is performed by aiming the x-ray tube out of the exam room door from approximately the patient position for an x-ray exam and measuring the exposure at the doorway where the public passes by in the hall. Operator exposures are measured at the position the operator stands when making the exposure as indicated by the facility.

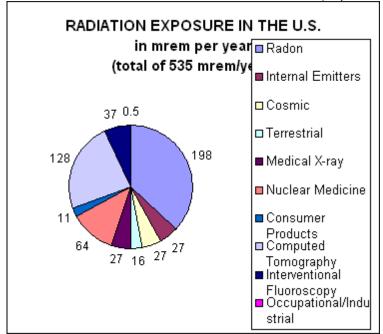
Operator and public exposures are measured in milliroentgen per hour using a Victoreen 471 ion chamber. The exposure per hour is converted to annual dose by converting hours to year and milliroentgen to rem using the number of x-rays the facility takes within a given period of time. 1 milliroentgen is equal 0.5 millirem (American National Standard Institute 6.1.1-1991) for whole body exposure from scattered radiation for the public and operators.

Patient exposures are measured in milliroentgen using an Unfors Xi. Patient exposures are converted from milliroentgen to millirem using the following factors based on the organ of greatest risk. Multiplication of the factor by the number of milliroentgen per exam results in the dose in millirem.

EXAM TYPE	FACTOR	ORGAN
Dental	0.0015	brain
PA Chest	0.1044	lung
AP Cervical Spine	0.0435	thyroid
AP Thoracic Spine	0.1044	lung
AP Lumbar Spine	0.1044	stomach/colon
AP Abdomen	0.1044	stomach/colon
AP Retrograde	0.1044	stomach/colon
Lateral Skull	0.0218	brain
Hand	0.0087	skin
Wrist	0.0087	skin
Arm	0.1044	bone marrow
Shoulder	0.1044	bone marrow
Leg	0.1044	bone marrow
Knee	0.1044	bone marrow
Ankle	0.0087	skin
DP Foot	0.0087	skin
Lateral Foot	0.0087	skin

Adapted from National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements Report No. 116 tissue weighting factors and conversion factor from roentgen to rad of 0.87 rad/roentgen.

The average radiation dose from natural and man-made sources is 535 millirem per year.



Adapted from NCRP Report No. 160, 2009, Ionizing Radiation Exposure of the Population of the United States.

INSPECTION ITEMS

The following boxed sections indicate the individual items that are specifically looked at during an inspection for the following general groups: film/screen, processing, darkroom/safelight, personnel monitoring, patient shielding, collimation, timer, kVp and filtration, patient entrance skin exposure criteria, public exposure criteria, operator conditions, and physical condition (x-ray unit, shielding, etc.)

Some inspection items may pertain only to specific types of facilities. For example, repeat rate analyses pertain only to chiropractic facilities, whereas panoramic units pertain only to dental facilities. There are also inspection items that cover all facilities (e.g., registration of all x-ray units).

New facilities are not cited for non-compliant items. However, they are given a period of approximately one month to correct any non-compliant items found in the initial inspection.

Film/screen	Dental film is less than E speed
	Panoramic and cephalometirc film speed is less than 400
	Film is not protected from scatter radiation
	Film is not stored properly
	Film is exposed to chemicals
	Out of date film is used
	Film and screen types not matched
	No screen installation date is on outside of cassette
	Screen and cassettes are not of the same type or age
	Screen cleaning interval is inadequate
	Screen cleaning solution is not manufacturer recommended
	Cassette check is inadequate
	Film viewbox is not available
	Film viewbox is not cleaned periodically
	Viewbox bulbs are not of the same type
	Viewbox bulbs are not replaced annually
	Technique factors are not recorded in the patient log book
	Left/right markers are not used on clinical radiographs
	Clinical radiographs are not properly identified

Processing	Thermometer is not available for manual processing
1 rocessing	Timer is not available for manual processing
	Floating cover is not present for manual processing
	Sight devevelopment is used
	No evidence of daily log is kept
	Developing technique recommended by the manufacturer is not used
	Developer and fixer temperature are not maintained in limits
	Processor cleaning interval is inadequate
	Processor is not operating properly
	Clean-up film for panoramic and cephalometric films are not run
Darkroom/Safelight	Safelight bulb is greater than 15 W
g	Safelight is too close to the work area
	Light leaks are detected in the safelight housing
	Light leaks are detected in the safelight lens
	Safelight is improperly filtered
	Darkroom is not light tight
	Darkroom is not free of dust and dirt
	Darkroom or daylight processor fog test results are unacceptable
	Daylight processor is not light tight
Personnel Monitoring	Personnel monitoring devices are required
3	Control dosimeters are not properly used or stored
	Employee dosimeters are not properly used
	Employee dosimeters are not properly stored
	No evidence of employee review of records
	Personnel monitoring records are incomplete
	No radiation safety officer is designated for large practices
	Evidence of personnel holding film during exposure
Patient Shielding	Satisfactory lead aprons are unavailable
3	Satisfactory thyroid shields are unavailable
	Satisfactory gonadal shields are unavailable
	Lead aprons are improperly stored
	Lead aprons are not checked annually for tears and holes
	Individuals holding patients are not protected
	Non-essential individuals are in the x-ray room during exposure
Collimation	X-ray beam is not restricted to the appropriate area
	X-ray beam is not restricted to the appropriate size
	Collimation is not used in taking radiographs
	Collimator light is not bright enough under normal room lighting
	Collimator light problems (e.g. mirror broken, mirror obstructed)
	Inadequate collimation is used for clinical radiographs

Timer	Timer does not terminate exposure			
	Timer activates at zero			
	Timer is inaccurate			
	Timer repeatability is unacceptable			
	No deadman switch is available			
kVp and Filtration	kVp is greater than 10% of set value			
	kVp is non-repeatable			
	Filtration in beam is less than required			
Patient entrance skin exposure criteria	ESEC in milliroentgen for non-specialty radiographic examinations sh	nall not		
T dient entrance skin exposure ontena	not be exceeded when technical factors for an average adult patient	are utilized:		
		ESEC mR	ESEC mR	Body part
	Examination	maximum	recommended	thickness (cm)
	PA Chest	30	15	23
	AP Cervical Spine	250	175	13
	AP Thoracic Spine	900	600	23
	AP Lumbar Spine	1000	675	23
	AP Abdomen	750	500	23
	AP Retrograde Pyelogram	900	600	23
	Lateral Skull	300	200	15
	Dental (bitewing or periapical)	700	350	not applicable
	OR			
		Dose		
			Body part	
	Examination	maximum	recommended	thickness (cm)
	PA Chest	3.13	1.57	23
	AP Cervical Spine	10.88	7.61	13
	AP Thoracic Spine	93.96	62.64	23
	AP Lumbar Spine	104.4	70.47	23
	AP Abdomen	78.3	52.2	23
	AP Retrograde Pyelogram	93.96	62.64	23
	Lateral Skull	6.54	4.36	15
	Dental (bitewing or periapical)	1.05	0.53	not applicable
	1.00 0.00 Not applicable			
	ESE for all x-ray units in facility are not within 20 percent of one another.			
	Exposure reproducibility is greater than 5%			
Public exposure	Public exposure exceeded - 100 millirem per year			
Public is not protected from scatter radiation				

Operator conditions	Operator exposure exceeded - 5000 millirem per year
•	Operator cannot observe patient during exposure
	Operator cannot monitor kVp, mA, time, mAs during exposure
	Operator is not protected during exposure
	Satisfactory lead gloves are not available
	Mobile or stationary exposure switch cord is less than 6 feet long
	Operator holds film in patient's mouth
Physical condition (x-ray unit, shielding, etc)	Console does not indicate tubes for multiple setup
	Panoramic unit does not reset before restarting
	Motion of panoramic unit is not smooth or is impeded
	X-ray tube head locks into position for panoramic and/or cephalometric unit
	Filters for soft tissue imaging for cephalometric imaging are not available
	Focal spot is not indicated on the x-ray tube
	Source to image distance is less than 7 7/8 inches
	Tube head is unstable
	Angulation indicator on x-ray unit is not functioning
	Typical exposure for x-ray unit is not posted
	Structural shielding is inadequate
	Door interlock system is not functioning
	Condition of high voltage and other cables is inadequate
	X-ray head leaks oil
	Wires are exposed on tube head
	X-ray exposure button is missing or broken
	Wires are exposed on exposure switch
	Preventive maintenance records for x-ray machines and processor are not kept
	Bare sheet lead on walls/doors is not covered
X-ray unit is not registered	
Vermont State licenses are not displayed	
No documentation of LMP (chiropractic)	
Repeat rate analysis is not performed	

SUMMARY OF ALL INSPECTIONS

Total Number of Inspections Performed

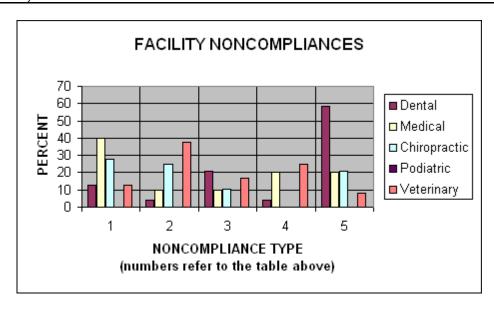
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Total Number of Non-compliance Items

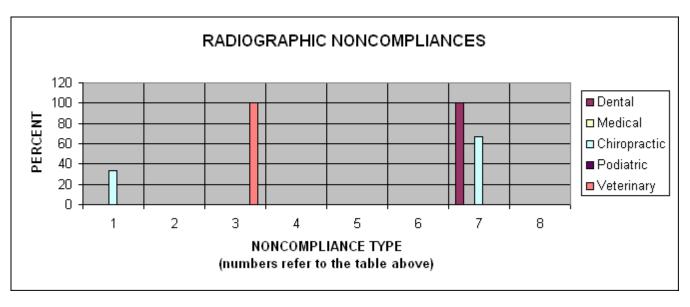
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-1		71

TOTAL NONCOMPLIANCES	134
Average number noncompliances per facility	1.7
Range of number of noncompliances/facility	0 - 9

TOTAL FACILITY NONCOMPLIANCES	126	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FACILITY NONCOMPLIANCES
1 Film/Screen	29	23.0
2 Processing	28	22.2
3 Darkroom/Safelight	17	13.5
4 Personnel Monitoring	9	7.1
5 Patient Shielding	32	25.4
6 License Not Displayed	0	0.0
7 Repeat Analysis Not Performed	11	8.7



TOTAL RADIOGRAPHIC NONCOMPLIANCES	8	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RADIOGRAPHIC NONCOMPLIANCES
1 Collimation	1	12.5
2 Timer	0	0.0
3 kVp & Filtration	2	25.0
4 Patient entrance skin exposure	0	0.0
5 Public exposure	0	0.0
6 Operator conditions	0	0.0
7 Physical condition (x-ray unit, shielding)	5	62.5
8 Unit not registered	0	0.0



Annual Dose to Occupational Worker		
	Average millirem	Range millirem
Type of Facility	per year	per year
Dental	3.1	0.004 - 77
Medical	0.18	0.001 - 0.26
Chiropractic	0.05	0.001 - 0.69
Podiatric	na	na
Veterinary	0.07	0.005 - 0.45

Annual Dose to Public		
	Average	Range
	millirem	millirem
Type of Facility	per year	per year
Dental	7.2	0.022 - 66
Medical	2.9	0.0003 - 1.87
Chiropractic	0.24	0.0024 - 1.87
Podiatric	na	na
Veterinary	0.04	0.001 - 0.22

DENTAL INSPECTIONS

Total Number of Inspections Performed

38

TOTAL NONCOMPLIANCES	27	
Average number noncompliances per facility	1	
Range of number of noncompliances	0-4	

TOTAL FACILITY NONCOMPLIANCES	24	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FACILITY NONCOMPLIANCES
Film/Screen	3	12.5
Processing	1	4.2
Darkroom/Safelight	5	20.8
Personnel Monitoring	1	4.2
Patient Shielding	14	58.3

TOTAL RADIOGRAPHIC NONCOMPLIANCES	3	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RADIOGRAPHIC NONCOMPLIANCES
Collimation	0	0
Timer	0	0
kVp & Filtration	0	0
Patient entrance skin exposure	0	0
Public exposure	0	0
Operator conditions	0	0
Physical condition (x-ray unit, shielding)	3	100
Unit not registered	0	0

Dose to Patients Per Exposure

	Average millirem	Range millirem
Exam Type	per exposure	per exposure
Intra-oral D speed film	0.45	0.25 - 0.73
Intra-oral E speed film	na	na
Intra-oral F speed film	0.26	0.13 - 0.41
Intra-oral Portable digital	0.18	0.11 - 0.36
Intra-oral CR digital	0.21	0.21
Intra-oral DR digital	0.13	0.07 - 0.26
Panoramic film	0.88	0.69 - 1.48
Panoramic digital	0.81	0.23 - 1.35
Cephalometric	0.042	na
Cephalometric digital	0.07	na
Cephalometric scanner	0.43	na
iCAT	1.5	na

Annual Dose to Occupational Worker

	Average millirem	Range millirem
Exam Type	per year	per year
Intra-oral D speed film	4.85	0.013 - 25.8
Intra-oral E speed film	na	na
Intra-oral F speed film	3.3	0.004 - 77
Intra-oral Portable digital	0.99	0.15 - 3.5
Intra-oral CR digital	na	na
Intra-oral DR digital	2	0.006 - 32
Panoramic film	0.3	0.05 - 0.69
Panoramic digital	2.2	0.06 - 14.6
Cephalometric	na	na
Cephalometric digital	na	na
Cephalometric scanner	na	na
iCAT	na	na

Exam Type	Average millirem per year	Range millirem per year
Intra-oral D speed film	16.4	0.52 - 66
Intra-oral E speed film	na	na
Intra-oral F speed film	9	0.18 - 26.2
Intra-oral Portable CR digital	na	na
Intra-oral CR digital	na	na
Intra-oral DR digital	4.7	0.022 - 49.6
Panoramic film	0.9	0.13 - 1.39
Panoramic digital	7.7	0.29 - 40.4
Cephalometric	na	na
Cephalometric digital	na	na
Cephalometric scanner	na	na
iCAT	na	na

MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Total Number of Inspections Performed

9

TOTAL NONCOMPLIANCES	10
Average number noncompliances per facility	1
Range of number of noncompliances	0-4

TOTAL FACILITY NONCOMPLIANCES	10	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FACILITY NONCOMPLIANCES
Film/Screen	4	40
Processing	1	10
Darkroom/Safelight	1	10
Personnel Monitoring	2	20
Patient Shielding	2	20

TOTAL RADIOGRAPHIC NONCOMPLIANCES	0	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RADIOGRAPHIC NONCOMPLIANCES
Collimation	0	0
Timer	0	0
kVp & Filtration	0	0
Patient entrance skin exposure	0	0
Public exposure	0	0
Operator conditions	0	0
Physical condition (x-ray unit, shielding)	0	0
Unit not registered	0	0

Dose to Patients Per Exposure

	Average millirem	Range millirem
Type of Exam	per exposure	per exposure
PA Chest	1.72	0.88 - 2.4
AP Cervical Spine	5.56	4.55 - 6.57
AP Thoracic Spine	11.8	6.39 - 13.3
AP Lumbar Spine	27	16.2 - 40.3
AP Abdomen	na	na
AP Retrograde	na	na
Lateral Skull	na	na
	Average	Range
	millirem	millirem
Type of Exam	per exposure	per exposure
Hand	0.12	0.041 - 0.266
Wrist	0.13	0.07 - 0.18
Arm	na	na
Shoulder	4.04	1.6 - 7.37
Leg	na	na
Knee	3	3 - 3.1
Ankle	0.16	0.06 - 0.27
DP Foot	na	na
Lateral Foot	na	na
Fluoroscopy		
Hand	na	na
Knee	na	na
Ankle	na	na
Foot	na	na
AP Lumbar	68	67 - 69
Fluoroscopy Spot Film	na	na
Sinus	na	na

Annual Dose to Occupational Worker

Average millirem	Range millirem
per year	per year
0.18	0.001 - 260

Average millirem	Range millirem
per year	per year
2.9	0.0003 - 8.75

CHIROPRACTIC INSPECTIONS

Total Number of Inspections Performed

24

TOTAL NONCOMPLIANCES	71
Average number noncompliances per facility	3
Range of number of noncompliances	0 - 9

TOTAL FACILITY NONCOMPLIANCES	68	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FACILITY NONCOMPLIANCES
Film/Screen	19	27.9
Processing	17	25.0
Darkroom/Safelight	7	10.3
Personnel Monitoring	0	0.0
Patient Shielding	14	20.6
License Displayed	0	0.0
Repeat Analysis	11	16.2

TOTAL RADIOGRAPHIC NONCOMPLIANCES	3	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RADIOGRAPHIC NONCOMPLIANCES
Collimation	1	33
Timer	0	0
kVp & Filtration	0	0
Patient entrance skin exposure	0	0
Public exposure	0	0
Operator conditions	0	0
Physical condition (x-ray unit, shielding)	2	67
Unit not registered	0	0

Dose to Patients Per Exposure

Type of Exam	Average millirem per exposure	Range millirem per exposure
PA Chest	na	na
AP Cervical Spine	3.4	1.3 - 8.1
AP Thoracic Spine	19.5	9.5 - 34.4
AP Lumbar Spine	33.8	9.4 - 67.4
AP Abdomen	na	na
AP Retrograde	na	na
Lateral Skull	na	na

	Average millirem	Range millirem
Type of Exam	per exposure	per exposure
Hand	na	na
Wrist	0.17	na
Arm	na	na
Shoulder	na	na
Leg	na	na
Knee	2.41	0.39 - 4.45
Ankle	na	na
DP Foot	na	na
Lateral Foot	na	na

Annual Dose to Occupational Worker

Average millirem	Range millirem
per year	per year
0.047	0.001 - 0.69

Average millirem	Range millirem
per year	per year
0.24	0.0024 - 1.87

PODIATRIC INSPECTIONS

Total Number of Inspections Performed

1

Non-compliance Items

TOTAL NONCOMPLIANCES	0
Average number noncompliances per facility	0
Range of number of noncompliances	0

TOTAL FACILITY NONCOMPLIANCES	0	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FACILITY NONCOMPLIANCES
Film/Screen	0	0
Processing	0	0
Darkroom/Safelight	0	0
Personnel Monitoring	0	0
Patient Shielding	0	0

TOTAL RADIOGRAPHIC NONCOMPLIANCES	0	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RADIOGRAPHIC NONCOMPLIANCES
Collimation	0	0
Timer	0	0
kVp & Filtration	0	0
Patient entrance skin exposure	0	0
Public exposure	0	0
Operator conditions	0	0
Physical condition (x-ray unit, shielding)	0	0
Unit not registered	0	0

Dose to Patients Per Exposure

	Average R millirem m	
Type of Exam	per exposure	per exposure
DP Foot	0.14	na
Lateral Foot	0.18	na

Annual Dose to Occupational Worker

Average millirem	Range millirem
per year	per year
0.012	na

Average	Range
millirem	millirem
per year	per year
0.0005	na

VETERINARIAN INSPECTIONS

Total Number of Inspections Performed

7

TOTAL NONCOMPLIANCES	26
Average number noncompliances per facility	4
Range of number of noncompliances	0 - 6

TOTAL FACILITY NONCOMPLIANCES	24	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FACILITY NONCOMPLIANCES
Film/Screen	3	12.5
Processing	9	37.5
Darkroom/Safelight	4	16.7
Personnel Monitoring	6	25.0
Patient Shielding	2	8.3

TOTAL RADIOGRAPHIC NONCOMPLIANCES	2	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RADIOGRAPHIC NONCOMPLIANCES
Collimation	0	0
Timer	0	0
kVp & Filtration	2	100
Patient entrance skin exposure	0	0
Public exposure	0	0
Operator conditions	0	0
Physical condition (x-ray unit, shielding)	0	0
Unit not registered	0	0

Exposure to Animals Per Exam

Type of Exam	Average milliroentgen per exposure	Range milliroentgen per exposure
Dog chest	50.4	4.1 - 123
Dog abdomen	31.1	7.6 - 45
Dog extremity	6.4	3.6 - 10
Dog dental	165	34 - 296
Cat-o-gram	32.1	1.5 - 74
Cat chest/abdomen	12.2	12 - 12.5
Cat extremity	na	na
Cat dental	110	34 - 187
Horse hoof	14.9	13.6 - 16.2
Horse navicular	na	na
Horse fetlock/pastern/ankle	na	na
Horse carpus/knee	na	na
Horse hock	na	na
Horse gaskin/forearm	na	na
Horse canon	na	na
Horse stifle/hip	na	na
Horse spine	na	na

Annual Dose to Occupational Worker

STATIONARY X-RAY	Average millirem	Range millirem
Position of Operator	per year	per year
Operator exposure at edge of table	7.5	5.3 - 10.8
Operator exposure at opposite ends of table	3.2	1.25 - 5
Operator exposure 3 feet from x-ray unit	2.4	1.2 - 5
Operator exposure 6 feet from x-ray unit	0.82	0.38 - 2
Operator exposure behind shield, wall, or door	0.12	0.005 - 0.45
Extremity exposure	26.8	13.3 - 38.2

	Average	Range
PORTABLE X-RAY	millirem	millirem
Position of Operator	per year	per year
Operator exposure holding unit	0.23	0.04 - 0.73
Operator exposure 3 feet from x-ray unit	0.06	0.025 - 0.097
Operator exposure 6 feet from x-ray unit	0.01	0.005 - 0.029
Operator exposure 9 feet from x-ray unit	na	na
Operator exposure at end of exposure cord	na	na
Operator exposure behind shield, wall, or door	0.02	0.005 - 0.054
Extremity exposure	0.46	0.26 - 0.63

DENTAL X-RAY	Average millirem	Range millirem
Position of Operator	per year	per year
Operator exposure at edge of table	0.05	na
Operator exposure 6 feet from x-ray unit	0.0025	na
Operator exposure at end of exposure cord	na	na
Operator exposure behind shield, wall, or door	na	na
Extremity exposure	0.42	na

	Average millirem per year	Range millirem per year
Stationary X-Ray	0.08	0.002 - 0.22
Portable X-Ray	0.0016	0.001 - 0.0023
Dental X-Ray	0.0005	na

NOTE: na = not applicable