Volume VI, #3 (Summer 2011)
Prepared and distributed by the staff of the Radiation Safety Division of EH&S

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep radioactive material users at UC Irvine informed regarding campus radiation safety policies and procedures including tips to improve safety. Visit the EH&S website (www.ehs.uci.edu) under “Radiation & Laser Safety” for previous issues of this newsletter and more information on radiation safety.

SUMMER RADIOISOTOPE INVENTORY UPDATE REMINDER

EH&S requires that your radioisotope inventory in the online CiBR-Trac system be updated at least every 6 months -- preferably every January and July since EH&S sends out email reminders those months. Your PI should have received the reminder email within the past few weeks. If your lab has not yet updated your radioisotope inventory, the web address for the CiBR-Trac system is http://ucirvine.ecompliance.net/index.jsp. There is also a link to CiBR-Trac at the upper right corner on the main EH&S webpage (www.ehs.uci.edu). If your lab is not updating your inventory on the January/July schedule, it is advisable that you make entries on either a lab or a personal calendar to remind you when the updates are due.

There is no need to perform radioactive decay corrections when you update your inventory – the CiBR-Trac program does that automatically when you update the inventory date, save the inventory changes, and print the inventory.

If you have any problems using the CiBR-Trac inventory system, please contact the Radiation Safety staff at 949-824-6200.
Contrary to what is frequently believed, UCI Main Campus and the UC Irvine Medical Center have separate and distinct Radiation Safety Programs:

- UCI Main Campus and the UC Irvine Medical Center have separate State Radioactive Material Licenses. The Main Campus has a broad-scope license which permits much greater flexibility than the narrow-scope license that the Medical Center has.

- UCI Main Campus and the UC Irvine Medical Center have separate Radiation Use Authorization programs. Radioisotopes and procedures approved for Main Campus labs are not transferable to the Medical Center, and vice versa.

- Main Campus and the Medical Center have different Radiation Safety Officers and Radiation Safety staff.

- The Main Campus and the Medical Center have separate Radiation Dosimetry Programs. Dosimeters assigned for use on Main Campus cannot be worn at the Medical Center, which supplies dosimeters for radiation work done there.

- Radioisotopes cannot be transferred back and forth between Main Campus and the Medical Center. Radioisotope packages ordered on Main Campus and delivered here cannot be used at the Medical Center, and vice versa, without proper notifications of both Radiation Safety Offices.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

RADIOACTIVE WASTE PICKUP RECHARGES

Keep in mind that the recharge rates for solid and liquid radioactive waste are based upon the tare weight of the waste – not on the volume of the containers. Therefore, using a trash compactor on your dry waste will not save you money. The same thing goes for liquid radioactive waste. Some labs are hesitant to dispose of partially-filled waste bottles since they believe that they will be recharged based upon the full size of the container. It is the weight of the waste that you will be paying for, even if there is only a small quantity of liquid waste at the bottom of a container. Note: Liquid scintillation vials and contaminated animal carcasses are recharged based upon volume.
MEMORABLE QUOTE

“Inanimate objects can be classified scientifically into three major categories; those that don’t work, those that break down, and those that get lost”.

Russell Baker (1925- ), American Satirical Writer

RADIATION USE AUTHORIZATION (RUA) LIMITS/COMPONENTS

For each radioisotope listed on a campus Radiation Use Authorization there are per purchase and per year radioactivity limits. The per purchase limit relates to the maximum quantity of that radioisotope that can be ordered at one time (arrives on campus on a particular day). The annual limit is the maximum quantity of that radioisotope that can be ordered in a calendar year.

Several times per year campus labs attempt to order more radioisotope than is authorized by their PI’s RUA. Most of these errors are caught in UCI Purchasing since the Senior Buyer there has access to the RUA limits for each PI. Occasionally, the packages get ordered and EH&S Radiation Safety discovers the discrepancy. Another error that occurs occasionally is that a lab will order a chemical form for a radioisotope that is not listed on the PI’s RUA. An example of this could be if a lab was authorized for use of S-35 nucleotides but attempts to order S-35 amino acids.

Before placing and order for a radioisotope, make sure that what you intend to order is authorized. If it isn’t, contact EH&S Radiation Safety and we can issue an RUA amendment such that the order may be placed.

If you have any questions about radiation safety, please contact EH&S at 949-824-6200. We will be happy to assist you with any radiation safety-related matter!