

OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

RADIATION SAFETY OPERATING PROCEDURE 1802

RADIOACTIVE WASTE PICK-UP BY RADIATION SAFETY OFFICE

I. PURPOSE:

To describe the manner in which radioactive waste will be removed from OHSU or Shriners research laboratories which request radioactive waste pick-ups. This procedure applies to radionuclides intended for off-site decay and for long term burial.

II. DISCUSSION:

The Radiation Safety Office is the responsible party for tracking and disposal of radioactive waste on campus. In order to reduce waste buildup in the lab and to stay within individual license limits, radioactive waste should be picked up periodically from labs. Proper documentation for tracking and disposal is essential. Radioactive waste disposal is provided on a fee-for-service basis and there is a minimum charge per pick-up. **Requests for radioactive waste pick-up may be made by telephone to the Radiation Safety Office at Ext. 4-2578.**

III. PRECAUTIONS:

- A. Each radionuclide must be stored in its own collection container. If radionuclides with >90 day half-lives are mixed with those with < 90 day half-lives, the laboratory will be billed at the > 90 day half-life rate.
- B. No LSC vials, lead pigs or free-standing liquid is permitted in any dry waste container.
- C. Different waste forms must not be mixed in the same container (i.e. LSC with dry waste or absorbed aqueous containers in dry waste).

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Initial phone contact. Contact the Radiation Safety Office by phone to schedule a waste pick-up. Have the following information at hand when scheduling:
 - 1. Licensee name (principal investigator)
 - 2. Laboratory location
 - 3. Account number to be used for billing radioactive waste
 - 4. Type of waste (dry, LSC or absorbed aqueous)
 - 5. Type of container (i.e., box, drum, etc.)
 - 6. Radionuclides and total activity of each to be picked up
 - 7. Type and amount of replacement containers
 - 8. Name of radiation contact person for lab

B. Container Preparation

NOTE: All radioactive waste containers must be clearly labeled and free of external removable contamination.

1. Check containers for leakage, removable contamination and/or overfilling. If any of these conditions are present, corrective action must be taken to prevent the spread of contamination prior to RSO pick up. If in doubt, call the RSO for assistance.
2. Total the activity of each radionuclide in the container **before pick-up** and attach tally sheet to container (decay activity in container to the date of pick-up before totaling).
3. Ensure that the container is marked with "radioactive materials" tape or sticker.
4. If waste is LSC or bulk LSC fluid, it is necessary to document the volume of liquid in milliliters. Liquid waste being transferred to the RSO must have a radioactive concentration $< 0.05 \mu\text{Ci/ml}$.

C. Removal of Radioactive Waste from Laboratory

When the Radiation Safety personnel arrive to pick up the waste, a signature is required for transfer of custody and billing approval. Ensure that the recorded radionuclides and activities are correct before waste is removed from your lab.

D. Radioactive Animal Waste

1. Radioactive carcasses must be surveyed before incineration or disposed of via the Radiation Safety Office.
1. Call ext. 4-2583 for disposal of animal carcasses