

Radiation Protection Supervisors – Roles and Responsibilities

The Heads of Departments delegate day-to-day responsibility for various aspects of work with ionising radiation to nominated RPS's. They carry the general responsibility for ensuring that the regulations are complied with. In order to assist in this aim, the employer appoints RPS's to supervise radiation protection at a local level.

RPS's must be appointed in writing by the employer in accordance with Regulation 18(5) of the (IRR2017) Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017.

Radiation Protection Supervisors (RPS) are expected to be trained and to keep up-to-date on relevant radiation protection matters. The St George's University of London Radiation Protection Advisor provides suitable training courses to help in this respect.

These duties apply to the department and/or area in which the RPS is responsible and are summarised as follows:

- ❑ To monitor the radiation safety aspects of the work in accordance with the Regulations in the department and / or area in which the RPS is responsible.
- ❑ To establish and maintain systems of work to ensure that exposures to staff and the public are kept as low as reasonably practicable.
- ❑ To authorise staff to use radioactive substances in laboratory work.
- ❑ To ensure that Local Rules, including written systems of work, are issued and explained to staff and to ensure as far as possible that they are observed.
- ❑ To ensure that staff and visitors are monitored in accordance with the Local Rules and to investigate and record the cause if any dose recorded exceeds the relevant local action level.
- ❑ To undertake basic radiation checks on laboratories and protective shielding to ensure that essential radiation protection facilities are in place and operational.
- ❑ To undertake contamination monitoring periodically to ensure that levels are as low as reasonably practicable.
- ❑ To ensure that the procurement, use and ultimate disposal of unsealed sources is undertaken in a safe manner.
- ❑ To use Best Available Technology (BAT) or minimisation of radioactive waste.