Radiation Safety in DCU

Under Irish legislation, Radiological Protection Act 1991 (Ionising Radiation) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 30 OF 2019), every organisation involved in storing, using, transporting, or disposing of radioactive materials, irradiation apparatus or other sources of ionising radiation, must hold an appropriate licence. To this end, Dublin City University is licenced by the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Office of Radiation Protection & Environmental Monitoring (ORM), in accordance with statutory requirements.

Licensing Requirements

In accordance with legislative requirements, the University has an appointed Radiation Protection Officer (RPO), Mr. Michael Burke, whose duties include advising the university on all matters relating to radiation protection and liaising with the competent authorities for radiation protection.

The University’s licence details all locations where ionising radiation sources are used, quantity limits, and all other conditions of their use, storage, and disposal. No licensable or registerable source (unsealed, sealed or irradiating apparatus) can be acquired without first contacting the RPO to ensure the relevant documents (risk assessment, radiation safety procedures, training, etc) are completed and approved by an external consultant (Radiological Protection Adviser) before an application to the EPA-ORP is processed.

Registering work with Ionising Radiation Sources

Registration and approval from the Office of Radiation Protection & Environmental Monitoring (ORM) is required for work involving possible exposure to ionising radiation from any of the following:

(i) sealed or unsealed radioactive substances

(ii) equipment producing useful beams of x-rays (e.g., for X-ray crystallography);

(iii) experimental apparatus producing non-useful X-rays (e.g., electron microscopes, image converters) operating at potentials above 30 kV.
Training

Ionising Radiation Safety training is provided by the University’s RPO as part of the Safelab Module 2. This is independent of the training provided by suppliers of new equipment, where appropriate. External training is also provided to staff responsible for managing X-Ray equipment and sealed sources.

Contact

Before considering acquiring a radiation source (sealed, unsealed, irradiating) or using an existing source for the first time, click on the link below.

Click this link if you are acquiring a new radioactive source or using a source for the first time....