

Radiation Safety Regulation Enforcement Policy

The Radiation Safety Committee and the Radiation Safety Office are committed to ensuring that radioactive material is used appropriately and in conjunction with the established procedures of the University and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). In order to ensure user conformity with these procedures, the Committee has outlined the following consequences for noncompliance.

First Violation: The Radiation Safety Office will notify the Authorized User of the violation via memo containing a written response deadline. The Authorized User is required to respond in writing with their corrective actions. If the Authorized User fails to respond within the allotted time period, a second memo will be sent to the User notifying them that failure to respond may result in the suspension of the authorization, at the discretion of the Radiation Safety Officer. Failure to respond to the second letter may result in possible suspension of the authorization pending response from the Authorized User at the discretion of the Radiation Safety Officer.

Second (1st Repeat) Violation: The Radiation Safety Office will follow the same procedure as for the initial violation. In addition, the auditor or the Radiation Safety Officer or designee may arrange to meet with the Authorized User and his/her staff to discuss the repeated violation and how to avoid it in the future. A written notice (via mail or email) will be sent to the Authorized User that a repeat violation has occurred and that a subsequent repetition of the violation may result in a Committee hearing that may result in the suspension of the authorization.

Third (2nd Repeat) Violation: The Radiation Safety Office may immediately suspend the authorization. If deemed necessary by the Radiation Safety Officer or the appropriate subcommittee (BRSC, HUSC or RDRC), a hearing with the appropriate subcommittee of the Radiation Safety Committee will be arranged. The Authorized User and Department Chairperson will be contacted to inform them of this action and to arrange for the hearing with the Radiation Safety Committee. The Committee will determine appropriate actions, which may include termination of the authorization. After hearing arguments from the Authorized User, Radiation Safety Officer and other committee members, the Committee will determine appropriate actions, which may include termination of the authorization. The Committee will take Authorized User behavior on this matter and past history into account when making this decision.

Fourth (3rd Repeat) Violation: The Radiation Safety Office will immediately suspend the authorization.

This process will apply until an Authorized User completes one inspection cycle (six months) without receiving the repeated violation again, in which case, the process will begin again with a First Violation.

An Authorized User that disagrees with a finding of the Radiation Safety Office may appeal to the Basic Research Subcommittee of the Radiation Safety Committee and request a hearing. Any Authorized User that is suspended a second time for whatever reason will be required to attend a Committee hearing prior to the reactivation of their authorization. The Committee will take Authorized User actions and past history into account when making this decision.