

U.S. NRC: Rulemaking Highlights

Digital Personnel Dosimeters



Example: Digital Personnel Dosimeter

What is the rule?

- The NRC revised its regulations, effective June 16, 2020, to allow industrial radiographic, irradiator, and well logging licensees to use modern digital personnel dosimetry. This digital dosimetry may be used in place of other personnel dosimetry such as film badges, thermo-luminescent devices, or optically stimulated luminescence dosimeters which are needed to meet safety regulations.
- The rulemaking made NRC regulations for personnel dosimetry consistent for all NRC licensees.
- The new regulations also help ensure a consistent regulatory framework for the NRC and [Agreement States](#).

What is the impact?

Previously, NRC-regulated industrial radiographic, irradiator, and well logging licensees needed to ship all personnel dosimeters offsite to a processor who evaluated the dosimeter and reported the results back. In industrial radiographic operations, if an overexposure is suspected, the individual in question must stop work until their dose can be determined. This rulemaking allows use of digital dosimetry devices that can be read onsite. This decreases the time needed to evaluate a dose, may allow the individual to return to work sooner, and enables the licensees to make any appropriate adjustments sooner.

What made this innovative?

Based on early, supportive public input, NRC revised the regulations using a streamlined process ([direct final rule](#)). Overall, the process took the NRC about one year less than a normal rulemaking.

A radiographer at work

