

Updates from the new L093 for Radioactive Sources in Education

CLEAPSS is the Consortium of Local Education Authorities for the Provision of Science Services, which provides advice and support on health and safety, science, design and technology, and art.

The L093 - Managing Ionising Radiations and Radioactive Substances in Schools and Colleges is a document that gives guidance on the use of radioactive sources in schools, colleges, and other educational institutions.

This document applies to all school staff who are involved in the management or use of radioactive sources, especially Radiation Protection Supervisors (Schools), or RPS(Schools) for short.

The document L093 has been updated in February 2024, which provides guidance on the use of radioactive sources in schools. It has been revised to update guidance technical justification, refresher training, contingency plans, source disposal, transport, and leak testing.

New requirements within the revised L093 are outlined below for RPS(Schools) who will need to update themselves with the changes and complete the necessary information on the relevant pages in the document against the numbered sections.

- Section 6.5 – Standard Operating Procedures,
 - The Standard operating procedures within the L093 document on page 21 must be completed and dated by the RPS (Schools),.
 - The RPS (Schools) is required to write any additional comments needed if applicable under section D on page 23. If notes are not required, then outline that there are no additional notes.

- Section 6.6.1 – The risk assessment for specific radioactive sources

The risk assessment guidance for each source has two additional rows to give indicative dose rates and to confirm the source and use match. The RPS (Schools) will need to reprint the revised risk assessments for the sources used at their site to ensure that they are using the revised risk assessments.

- Section 9 – Managing radiation incidents and accidents.

The L093 has been completely revised, and the terms minor incidents and serious incidents have been changed to radiation incidents and radiation accidents.

RPS (Schools) are required to complete the information in the table on page 55 relating to managing radiation incidents and accidents and then read through this section and tick which part applies to their school.

- Section 15 - Dose of radiation this is to explain how CLEAPSS have done their calculations and to avoid having multiple documents, you will also need to tick the sources that apply to your school.

Training: All RPS (Schools) are required to refresh their training within five years of the date of their last training as outlined on page 7), this has been stipulated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

New recommendations for radium sources: The radium cup source (page 37) has been reclassified as a (brown dotted border) source; therefore, it must be kept under review. If there are signs of foil discolouration, dispose of the source. Expansion cloud chamber radium sources are now advised to be disposed of (do we need this here as well as being outlined below?)

Expansion cloud chamber radium sources advised to dispose: The document advises schools to **dispose of any expansion (Wilson) cloud chamber radium sources** (page 34), as they are difficult to examine and have been found to have deeply discoloured radium foils.

Protactinium generators (DIY versions): In the revised L093 this source has been double red boarded (page 41), this means that schools will need to take this source **out of use and to organise disposal** of this source.

Leak testing for Isotrak rod source specified: in section 11 of the L093 shows how to perform a leak test for an Isotrak rod source (page 70), which is a common type of source used in schools.

Checklist for RPS(Schools) revised: The document provides a revised checklist for the RPS (Schools) to ensure that all the necessary actions have been taken (page 89). The checklist can also act as a record that the checks and reviews have been completed.

Monthly store check: (16.3 page 91) has been revised so it records each source individually to ensure that each source has been checked.

Contingency plans: all authorised users of radiation sources as part of their initial or refresher training with need to do a desktop rehearsal of the schools' contingency plans (9.3 page 58) and will need to document when this has been completed.

Annual forms to RPO: Existing schools will not need to complete the RPA form 1 annually but must ensure that the 16.2 Inventory of radioactive sources held form is completed and sent to the RPO, schools will only need to complete the RPA form 1 if the are new to the KCC RPO service.

The inventory of radioactive sources form will be emailed to the schools once they have purchased for the service which will detail when the form needs to be completed by and who to send the form to.

If you have any further queries or require information about how to purchase the Kent County Council radiation protection service, please do not hesitate to contact the KCC Health and Safety Team/ Radiation Protection Officers on 03000 418 456 or email healthandsafety@kent.gov.uk