

# Advanced Photon Source

User Policies and Procedures

<b>POLICY</b>	Page 1 of 11
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## Radioactive Samples

### Changes made in this revision:

- Minor edits made to this procedure since its last review

### Prepared by:

Chair of the APS Radioactive Sample Safety Review Committee

### Reviewed by:

Argonne Health Physics  
AES/EFOG Group Leader  
WSE - XSD/ESH Coordinator

### Approved by:

AES/Division Director  
APS/Deputy Associate Laboratory Director, X-ray Science  
WSE - PSC/Safety Manager

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**POLICY**

Page 2 of 11

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## Table of Contents

POLICY .....	3
Radioactive Samples .....	3
References .....	7
FEEDBACK AND IMPROVEMENT .....	7
Appendix A .....	8
Appendix B .....	10

## POLICY

This policy reflects the basic Argonne philosophy that in non-controlled areas, such as the APS experimental floor, there should be no release of radioactivity. Any significant release could pose a health hazard to APS users and a risk to APS operations. The policy described below is meant to prevent radioactive releases and to limit the consequences of a potential release.

### Radioactive Samples

All experiments involving radioactive samples must be identified as Experiment Hazard Class 8.1 on the ESAF and are categorized as *High Risk*.

Any radioactive sample that a user is considering bringing to the APS must be declared on an ESAF. Triggered by the ESAF submission, the APS Radioactive Sample Safety Review Committee (RSSRC) representative and the experimental facilities management (CAT or APS Group) will review the plans. Approval by both the RSSRC and the experimental facilities management is required to bring radioactive samples on to the Argonne site and use them at the APS.

New experiments should be submitted through an ESAF at least two months before the expected scheduled date of the experiment. Previously approved containment, isotopes, and weights can be submitted as late as two weeks in advance. Sample size/number of samples may be limited depending on the isotope(s) in use by this experiment and the amounts of other radionuclides in use at the APS site at the same time.

Triggered by the ESAF review, the APS will generate a standard operating procedure (SOP) for handling of the sample during the experiment. The SOP includes: a description of the required engineered and procedural controls; the role of Argonne Health Physics Group (HP); specific personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements, and sample handling before, during, and after the experiment.

There are two categories of radioactive samples that are excluded from this policy. These are addressed in Appendix A (Identification of soil samples as radioactive samples HPTN-2015-002) and Appendix B (Identification of radioactive samples that are Indistinguishable from Background HPTN-2019-002).

Due to the minimal risks associated with some naturally occurring background levels of some uranium and transuranic isotopes in soils (including ore, rock, sand etc.), some soil samples may not require radiologically specific controls. Soil samples, that come from sources identified in Appendix A or exceed isotopic concentrations listed in Appendix A, must be identified as radioactive materials on the ESAF and appropriate radiological controls will be required. Other soil samples, with natural background levels and not otherwise a radioactive sample, need not be declared as radioactive materials on the ESAF. In any case, all samples must be identified and

characterized for the ESAF and if there are questions about requirements (or if in doubt) contact the Chair of the APS RSSRC.

Appendix B provides guidance for determining whether samples containing radioactive isotopes may be handled without radiological, inventory, and transportation controls at Argonne National Laboratory. All samples still must be identified and characterized for the ESAF and if there are questions about requirements listed in Appendix B contact the Chair of the APS RSSRC.

All radioactive materials must arrive through Argonne Receiving in Building 46 and the Argonne Material Control & Accountability Group (MC&A). Radioactive samples may not be shipped to the APS without prior approval by the APS and ANL-RSO. After being received in Building 46, all on-site movement of radioactive materials will be arranged by and transported by designated Argonne personnel. Users are not allowed to transport radioactive materials on the Argonne site.

All signs and postings required for the experiment station will be supplied by HP. Procedures for sample handling must be posted at the experiment station.

Training required of experimenter using radioactive samples:

- Argonne Radiation Worker I (ESH 700) with an Argonne site-specific practical training (ESH 700PR) for all experiment participants that will handle the radioactive material.

All users involved in the experiment may be required to wear a dosimeter during the experiment, this will be noted in the ESAF. HP is responsible for all monitoring of samples.

Containment requirements:

- Solid samples must have at least one acceptable containment enclosure unless a specific exemption has been granted by the RSSRC. In general, no credit shall be allowed for a sample holder as containment. This will be determined by the RSSRC after a review of the proposed experiment.
- Powder and liquid radioactive samples will be allowed provided they have a minimum of two containment enclosures.

Gaseous radioactive samples are prohibited. These requirements must be followed unless a specific exemption has been granted by the RSSRC.

If multiple samples are each individually contained within separate primary barriers, they can have a common secondary and tertiary barrier. Fragile materials used as containment must be approved by the RSSRC. Upon request the experimenter must provide a physical example of the containment proposed and be available to meet with the RSSRC.

The following must be provided for each sample:

- Sample information
  - Total sample matrix, weight, and dimensions.
  - The amount (weight) of each radioactive isotope in the sample.
  - The total number of samples that will be at the APS.
  - A detailed description of the sample containment.
  - Any data on integrity of the sample, the sample holder, and containment under the expected experiment conditions (e.g., heating, cooling, pressure, etc.)
  - Special training requirements, in reference to handling, accountability, transport, etc. of the samples. (The APS requires a minimum of ANL Radioactive Worker 1 (ESH700/700PR) training for all experiment participants that will handle the contained samples. An APS site-specific practical training will be required at the start of the experiment.)
  - Exposure readings from the sample at contact and at 30 cm, with a description of the instruments used to perform the measurements. Provide appropriate wipe/smear test results on loaded sample holder(s).
  - If there are multiple samples inside a primary containment, the sample masses for each isotope must be summed to give the total mass for each isotope within the primary.
- Beam information  
(Note: Contact the Beamline to obtain the information for items listed below.)
  - Approximate beam size and flux.
  - Beam type (Mono/Pink/White).
  - Beam energies if Mono or ID gap if pink/white.
  - Energy cutoff if pink beam.

It is the policy of Argonne that the maximum a person should inhale from a breach or leak in sample containment should not exceed 2% of the annual limit of intake (ALI) for a given dispersible radionuclide.

Table 1 lists the maximum allowed amount in an APS experiment station of various radionuclides. In the case of multiple radioisotopes, the  $q_i$  for each radioisotope must obey

$$\sum_i q_i / (q_{\max})_i \leq 1.0$$

which ensures that committed effective dose does not exceed 100 mrem.

Where:

- $q_i$  is the activity ( $\mu\text{Ci}$ ) of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  radionuclide and
- $q_{\max i}$  the maximum allowed sample activity ( $\mu\text{Ci}$ ) for a solid sample of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  radionuclide.

Table 1: Maximum Allowed Solid Sample Activity of Selected Radionuclides\*

Nuclide Activity	Specific Solid Sample Activity (Ci/g)	Derived Air Concentration ( $\mu\text{Ci/cc}$ )	Maximum Allowed Solid Sample Activity ( $\mu\text{Ci}$ )	Maximum Allowed Solid Sample Weight (g)
Th-229	2.12E-01	4.0E-13	3	1.415E-05
Th-230	2.05E-02	3.0E-12	24	1.17E-03
Th-232	1.09E-07	5.0E-13	4	3.67E+01
U-235	2.15E-06	2.0E-11	163	7.58E+01
U-238	3.35E-07	2.0E-11	163	4.87E+02
Nat-U	6.85E-07	2.0E-11	163	2.38E+02
Dep-U	3.35E-07	2.0E-11	163	4.87E+02
Np-237	6.99E-04	2.0E-12	16	2.29E-02
Pu-238	17.0	3.0E-12	24	1.41E-06
Pu-239	6.19E-02	3.0E-12	24	3.88E-04
Pu-240	2.27E-01	3.0E-12	24	1.06E-04
Pu-242	3.91E-03	3.0E-12	24	6.14E-03
Am-241	3.42	3.0E-12	24	7.02E-06
Am-243	0.198	3.0E-12	24	1.21E-04
Cm-248	4.23E-03	7.0E-13	6	1.42E-03
Cf-248	1.58E03	3.0E-11	244	1.5E-07
Cf-252	5.35E02	8.0E-12	65	1.22E-07
Bk-249	1.63E03	7.0E-10	5691	3.49E-06
Es- 253	2.51E04	2.0E-10	1672	4.6E-8
Sr-90	13.7	8.0E-09	6.5E-04	4.74E-03
Tc-99	1.69E-02	1.0E-7	8.13E5	4.8E1
Tc-99m	5.24E06	1.0E-5	2.69E8	5.13E-5

\* The Maximum Allowed Activity is evaluated for one hour duration of stay in the experiment station (hutch), i.e.,  $t=1\text{hr}$ , with an assumed volume of  $1.0\text{E}08\text{ cc}$ , with an assumed effective number of air exchanges,  $\lambda_v=0.05\text{ (1/h)}$ , and the total release fraction  $F=0.001$ . The total release fraction could be modified on a case by case basis depending on the sample matrix, the nature of the x-ray beam, (unfocused or focused), the proven integrity of the sample holder design and any additional containment provided to the sample. For powder and liquid samples, the maximum allowed activity is reduced by a factor of 10.

## References

- A. Brodsky, Radiation Protection Requirements in Relation to the Quantity and Toxicity of the Radioactive Material Processed, Radiation Protection Management, 6 (5), September/October 1989.
- J.D. Constance, Simplified Method for Determining Inhalable Contaminants, Pollution Engineering, July 1972.
- 10 CFR 30.72, Schedule C – Quantities of Radioactive Materials Requiring Consideration of the Need for an Emergency Plan for Responding to a Release, Chapter 1, 1-1-91 Edition.
- E.E. Hickey, G. A. Stoezel, P.C. Olsen & S. A. McGuire. Air Sampling in the Work Place, NUREG-1400 Draft Report for Comment, October 1991.
- V. R. Veluri, Draft Policy on Laboratory Work Place Containment Requirements for Dispersible Radionuclides, Internal Note, Argonne National Laboratory, 1991, Rev-1992.
- V.R. Veluri, A. Justus, B. Glagola, A. Rauchas & J. Vacca, Experiments with Radioactive Samples at the Advanced Photon Source, Proceedings of the 34<sup>th</sup> Midyear Topical Meeting, Anaheim, CA, February 2001.
- Calculation of Radioactive Sample Limits, APS document number [APS\\_1412829](#).
- Argonne Procedure “Managing Radioactive Material Inventories in Radiological Facilities” [LMS-PROC-45](#)
- [HPTN-2015-002](#) “Radioactive Samples at User Facilities”
- [HPTN-2019-002](#) “Radiological Control of Samples that are Indistinguishable from Background”

## FEEDBACK AND IMPROVEMENT

If you are using this procedure and have comments or suggested improvements for it, please go to the [APS Policies and Procedures Comment Form](#)\* to submit your input to a Procedure Administrator. If you are reviewing this procedure in workflow, your input must be entered in the comment box when you approve or reject the procedure.

Instructions for execution-time modifications to a policy/procedure can be found in the following document: Field Modification of APS Policy/Procedure ([APS\\_1408152](#)).

\* <https://www.aps.anl.gov/Document-Central/APS-Policies-and-Procedures-Comment-Form>

## Appendix A

Identification of soil, ore, rock, sand, etc. samples as radioactive materials, based on Argonne Health Physics Technical Note (HPTN-2015-002), Radioactive Samples at User Facilities (May 1, 2015)

A1) For any given soil, ore, rock, sand, etc. sample, if the answer to any of the following questions is yes, the sample must be identified as a radioactive material on the ESAF:

### Is the sample source from any of the following?

- i. Ores of uranium or thorium
- ii. Mine tailings from mining of any of the above ores
- iii. Sands, soils, rocks, or other natural materials from any global locations known to have concentrations of thorium or uranium or thorium/uranium daughters above the background values given in Table A
- iv. Soils from the Chernobyl or Fukushima exclusion zones
- v. Soils from any site related to nuclear weapons testing or production areas which have not been environmentally remediated
- vi. Soils from nuclear waste storage areas which have not been environmentally remediated
- vii. Sediments in water outflows from the areas listed in iv, v, and vi above
- viii. Materials controlled as radioactive by user's originating USA state laws, USA federal regulations, or user's originating nation's regulations (user's home institute's radiological safety officer should be able to advise on this)
- ix. Materials in which a radioactive isotope concentration has been increased by isotopic separation

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# Advanced Photon Source

## User Policies and Procedures

### POLICY

Page 9 of 11

ICMS Content ID: APS\_1187383  
 DNS : APS-PPR-ESH-000-A020-000022  
 Revision #: 8

A2) For any given soil, ore, rock, sand, etc. sample, if the concentrations are greater than those listed below, the sample must be identified as a radioactive material on the ESAF:

Argonne Radiological Background Concentrations in Soil			
Radionuclide	Concentration (pCi/g)	Mass Concentration <sup>1</sup>	Equivalent dpm/g
Strontium-90 (Sr90) from Fallout	0.2	1.5fg/g (1.5 ppq)	0.44
Cesium-137 (Cs137) from Fallout	1.0	11 fg/g (11 ppq)	2.2
Other gamma-ray emitting fission and activation products such as europium-152 from Fallout	0.2	-	0.44
Natural uranium (99.28% U238, 0.72% U235)	1.73 U238 <sup>2</sup> 0.08 U235	5 µg/g (5 ppm) <sup>2</sup>	3.8 U238 <sup>2</sup> 0.18 U235
Individual U238 daughters <sup>3</sup> such as Ra-226	1.73	-	3.8
Individual U235 daughters <sup>4</sup> such as Th231	0.08	-	0.18
Natural thorium (100% Th232)	1.76	16 µg/g (16 ppm)	3.9
Individual Th232 daughters <sup>5</sup> such as Th228	1.76	-	3.9
Plutonium-239 (Pu239) from Fallout	0.03	0.5 pg/g (0.5 ppt)	0.07
Americium-241 (Am241) from Fallout	0.01	3 fg/g (3 ppq)	0.02

1 µg/g = micrograms per gram of sample (parts per million, ppm)  
 pg/g = pictograms per gram of sample (parts per trillion, ppt)  
 fg/g = femtograms per gram of sample (parts per quadrillion, ppq)

2 Use for depleted uranium and separated U238

3 U238 principal daughters in sequence of decay are: Th234, Pa-234m, Pa234, U234, Th230, Ra226, Rn222, Po218, Pb214, Bi214, Po214, Pb210, Bi-210, Po-210, Pb206 (stable)

4 U235 principal daughters in sequence of decay are: Th231, Pa231, Ac227, Th227, Ra223, Rn219, Po215, Pb211, Bi211, Tl207, Pb207 (stable)

5 Th232 principal daughters in sequence of decay are: Ra228, Ac228, Th228, Ra224, Rn220, Po216, Pb212, Bi212, Po212 (64% of Bi212 decays), Tl208 (34% of Bi212 decays), Pb208 (stable)

## Appendix B

Guidance for samples containing radioactive isotopes may be handled without radiological, inventory, and transportation controls at Argonne National Laboratory (therefore APS) based on Argonne Health Physics Technical Note (HPTN-2019-002), Radiological Control of Samples that are Indistinguishable from Background (IFB) (August 23, 2019)

Argonne has determined that all regulatory requirements can be met without special handling or controls for radiological material with an activity below 1 pCi.

A1) The following limitations apply. If any of the following limitations apply to the sample, the sample must be identified as a radioactive material on the ESAF:

- All material must be a discrete item or sample.
- Material in powder, gas, or liquid form requires additional analysis.
- Analytical smears may not be considered IFB.
- Items or samples greater than 1 pCi may not be split to qualify as IFB.
- Items must arrive pre-separated (e.g. 100 x 1 pCi samples rather than a single 100 pCi sample to be aliquoted). They must remain separated while at Argonne and remain in the physical/chemical state as shipped.
- Items must arrive in shipping packages that are not regulated as Class 7 (radioactive) material (i.e., total package contents must remain less than 27 nCi).
- Any material that is determined to be less than 1 pCi by process knowledge must also demonstrate that there is no potential for ingrowth of daughter products that may increase the activity above 1 pCi.

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# Advanced Photon Source

## User Policies and Procedures

**POLICY**

Page 11 of 11

ICMS Content ID: APS\_1187383

DNS : APS-PPR-ESH-000-A020-000022

Revision #: 8

A2) For any given sample the maximum activity of all radionuclides (including progeny) must be less than 1 pCi.

Maximum Activities for Samples Exempt from Radiological Controls  
(IFB per Argonne HPTN-2019-002)

Radionuclide	IFB Activity Level (pCi)	Radionuclide Mass (g)
Enriched U	1.0	1 E-08
U-233	1.0	1 E-10
Pu-242	1.0	3 E-10
Pu-239	1.0	2 E-11
Pu-241	1.0	1 E-14
Pu-238	1.0	6 E-14
Depleted U	1.0	2 E-06
Natural U (plus progeny)	1.0	1 E-06
Am-241	1.0	3 E-13
Am-243	1.0	5 E-12
Cf-252	1.0	2 E-15
Cm-246	1.0	3 E-12
Np-237	1.0	1 E-09
Natural Thorium (plus progeny)	1.0	5 E-06

*Note:* the activity of all radionuclides (including progeny) in a sample must be < 1 pCi.