

19 March 2020

To: Radiation Health Administrative Organizations (RHAOs) and Authorized Radiation Protection Agencies (ARPAs)

Re: COVID-19 and implications for inspection and registration of designated radiation equipment

I have received queries from RHAOs and ARPAs concerning Alberta Labour and Immigration's expectations for the inspection and registration of designated radiation equipment required under the *Radiation Protection Act* and Regulation.

The Radiation Health and Safety Program provides flexibility in this regard:

RHAOs:

- **New radiation equipment:** Inspection and registration of new radiation equipment will still be required before the equipment is used
- **Radiation equipment that does not have a current valid registration certificate:** Inspection and registration of radiation equipment being brought back into service, relocated or modified will still be required before the equipment is used
- **Soon to expire registration certificates:** Inspection of existing equipment that is about to expire does not require re-inspection and the registration certificates should have the expiration date extended by six months

ARPAs:

- **Facility health and safety protocols:** Prior to any on-site testing, discuss the facility's infection prevention and control practices, health status of staff and cooperate with the facility to ensure health and safety protocols are followed
- **Personal risk mitigation:** Update your written hazard assessment to address the identification and control of infectious diseases hazard as appropriate. If on-site testing is required, ARPAs should practice risk mitigation by using hand sanitizer or frequent hand washing, and social distancing from facility staff and patients. Follow public guidance on COVID-19, which is changing rapidly.
- **Postponing inspections:** Retesting of existing radiation equipment with registration certificates soon to expire should be postponed until further notice. Communicate with the RHAOs as needed.

This interim guidance is in place until further notice. For the latest public information, please visit www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx frequently.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Hughes
Director of Radiation Health