



**THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**
WASHINGTON, DC

Responsible University Official:
Radiation Safety Officer
Responsible Office: Office of Laboratory
Safety
Last Revised Date: June 25, 2007

USE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the university to comply with all federal and local regulations, as well as the terms of the license granted to GW by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), when ordering, receiving, storing, handling, transferring or disposing of any radioactive material (RAM). Any activity involving RAM must comply with the regulations of the NRC, the university's [Radiation Safety Policies for Use of Radioactive Material in Research - Authorized User Manual](#) and this policy.

Reason for Policy

Radioactive materials emit particles and energy that can be harmful to adjacent persons and property. The purpose of this policy is to promote the safe use and handling of RAM and radiation producing machines throughout the university in accordance with federal and local regulations. This policy, and associated publications and procedures are required by the NRC to control use, inventories and possession limits.

Who is Governed by this Policy

Faculty, staff and students

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Policy

The university has appointed a Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) working within the Office of Laboratory Safety (OLS) to administer the radiation safety program, which includes radioactive isotopes, sealed sources, radiation emitting machines and any other source of ionizing radiation.

Requests for RAM must be approved by OLS, which will coordinate delivery to the Authorized User (AU). All AUs must complete Radiation Safety training prior to being approved to use RAM, as well as annual refresher training to keep current on radiation safety and any changes to the Radiation Safety program. AUs must be approved by both the university’s Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) and RSO.

All proposed use of RAM must be reviewed and approved by the university’s RSC prior to the start of the activity. All RAM use must be conducted under the oversight of an AU. Those who want to use RAM under the supervision of an AU also must have sufficient training and demonstrate proficiency in working with RAM.

Proper protective equipment must be worn and utilized when working with RAM. Inventories and records as to the amount of RAM used should be kept up to date. OLS must be contacted to dispose of used or unwanted RAM, and radioactive waste may not be disposed of using regular laboratory trash methods.

For more information on the approval process, RAM use procedures, or radiation safety, please visit the [OLS website](#) or consult the Authorized User Manual.

Related Information

[Office of Laboratory Safety](#)

[Radiation Safety Policies for Use of Radioactive Material in Research - Authorized User Manual](#)

[The Office of Health and Emergency Management Services](#)

[United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission](#)

Contacts

Contact	Telephone	Email
Office of Lab Safety	202-994-8258	labsafety@gwu.edu

Document History

- **Last Reviewed Date:** April 27, 2018
 - **Last Revised Date:** June 25, 2007
 - **Policy Origination Date:** Not Available
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Who Approved This Policy

Louis H. Katz, Executive Vice President and Treasurer

Steven Lerman, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Beth Nolan, Senior Vice President and General Counsel

This policy, as well as all [university policies](#), are located on the [Compliance Office website](#).