

# UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

## Radiation Safety Manual

### **Radioactive Material Laboratory Safety Guidelines**

Non-essential personnel should not be allowed in the laboratory while radioactive procedures are in progress.

A portion of the laboratory should be set aside only for radioactive procedures. Locate these work areas away from heavy traffic and doorways.

Work with radioactive material should be done rapidly but carefully.

Every container containing radioactive material should be labeled for identification with the radiation warning symbol and pertinent information.

Exercise deliberate care in handling radioactive material and transport them in shielded containers when necessary to protect against external radiation exposure.

Wear laboratory coats or other protective clothing at all times in areas where radioactive material is used.

Wear disposable gloves at all times while handling radioactive material.

Do not eat, drink, smoke, apply lip balm, or apply cosmetics in any area where radioactive material is stored or used.

Do not store food, drink, or personal effects with radioactive material.

Dispose of radioactive waste only in specially labeled and properly shielded receptacles.

Never pipette by mouth.

Absorbent paper shall cover workbenches, trays, and other surfaces where radioactive material is handled.

Monitor hands and clothing for contamination after each procedure or before leaving the area.

Survey areas where radioactive material is used in uncontained form after each procedure and/or at the end of the day. Decontaminate immediately if necessary.

Radioactive material in liquid form should be stored and transported in double containers.

Work should be planned ahead, and whenever possible, a practice run should be performed to test the procedure.

The laboratory should be kept clean and orderly at all times.

Survey meters should be checked routinely with a source of radiation to see if they are responding properly. A battery check should be performed before each use.

Radiation Badges shall be worn at all times while in areas where radioactive material is stored or used if assigned. Finger badges shall be worn at all times when handling radioactive material if assigned.

All radioactive material shall be stored in a locked room.