Auburn University Radiation Safety Policy

I. POLICY STATEMENT
It is the policy of Auburn University to comply with all applicable federal and state regulations and all conditions of licenses and registrations issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Office of Radiation Control in regard to the use of radioactive materials and radiation-producing machines.

II. POLICY PRINCIPLES
This policy describes Auburn University’s commitment to providing a safe and healthful environment for our faculty, staff, students, and visitors with regard to the use of radioactive materials and radiation-producing machines.

Auburn University is committed to keeping radiation doses to all individuals “As Low As Reasonably Achievable” (ALARA), consistent with our mission to serve the citizens of Alabama through our instructional, research, and outreach programs.

The Radiation Safety Committee (RSC), appointed by the President, establishes radiological safety policies for Auburn University and oversees the use of radioactive materials and radiation-producing machines controlled by Auburn University. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Authorizations to Possess and Use Radioactive Material
- The Procurement and Transfer of Radioactive Material
- The Use of Radioactive Materials in the Laboratory
- The Use of Radiation-Producing Machines
- Radiation Dose Limits and Personnel Monitoring
- Emergency Procedures

III. EFFECTIVE DATE
01 January 2022

IV. APPLICABILITY
This policy applies to all persons or entities using or possessing radioactive materials or radiation-producing machines in or on areas controlled by Auburn University. This includes faculty, staff, students, visitors, vendors, units or any other individual or group present where radioactive materials or radiation-producing machines are being used.

V. POLICY MANAGEMENT
Responsible Office: Risk Management & Safety
Responsible Executive: Executive Director, Risk Management & Safety
Responsible Officer: Radiation Safety Officer (RSO)

VI. DEFINITIONS
1. “As low as is reasonably achievable” (ALARA) – The concept of making every reasonable effort to maintain exposures to radiation as far below the dose limits as is practical, consistent with the purpose for which the licensed or registered activity is undertaken, taking into account the state of technology, the economics of improvements in relation to state of technology, the economics of improvements in relation to benefits to the public health and safety, and other societal and socioeconomic considerations, and in relation to utilization of nuclear energy and licensed or registered sources of radiation in the public interest.
2. “Person” – means any individual, corporation, partnership, firm, association, trust, estate, public or private institution, group, agency, political subdivision of this State, any other State or political subdivision or agency thereof, and any legal successor, representative, agent, or agency of the foregoing other than the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and other Federal Government Agencies licensed by the U.S. Department of Energy, and other than Federal Government Agencies licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

3. “General License” – A general license is provided by rule, granting authority to a person for certain activities involving radioactive material, and is effective without the filing of an application with ADPH or the issuance of a licensing document to a particular person.

“Shall” means mandatory.
“Should” means advisory.

VII. POLICY PROCEDURES
The detailed policy procedures are included in Auburn University Radiation Safety Manual.

VIII. SANCTIONS
NON-COMPLIANCE

The following items of non-compliance will be investigated by the RSO and will be reported to the RSC. In some instances, ADPH, Office of Radiation Control must also be notified.

- Willful violation of university policies or ADPH, Office of Radiation Control regulations regarding the use of radioactive materials and radiation-producing machines.
- Loss of or inability to account for radioactive material and radiation-producing machines.
- Reported instances of mid or high-level removable contamination (See Appendix C of Radiation Safety Manual).
- Improper use of radioactive materials and radiation-producing machines which result in a significant danger to personnel or the environment.
- Use of radioactive materials and radiation-producing machines not authorized by the principal investigator’s (PI’s) permit.

The RSC will take appropriate action based on the significance of the incident. In severe cases, the RSC can suspend or revoke a PI’s permit or ban an individual from working with radioactive materials and radioactive-producing machines at Auburn University.

IX. EXCLUSIONS
EXCEPTIONS TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS POLICY

An Auburn University permit is not required for the following categories of radioactive materials and the requirements of this policy do not apply. However, all such materials must be used in a safe and prudent manner. The exception does not limit the RSC’s authority over the use of these materials. The RSC may impose any restrictions or conditions deemed appropriate.

- Commercially produced standards or sealed sources containing up to the activity listed in Schedule B of Rule 420-3-26-.02 of the Alabama Radiation Control Rules. For example, most liquid scintillation counter standards are exempt.
• Commercially produced items containing radioactive materials which are exempt from ADPH, Office of Radiation Control licensing requirements. For example, lantern mantles and welding rods containing thorium, watches containing tritium, and smoke detectors containing Americium-241 are exempt.

• Devices containing radioactive materials for which a general license is issued by the ADPH, Office of Radiation Control. For example, liquid scintillation counters containing sealed sources are generally licensed. All conditions of the general license must be followed, and the Radiation Safety Officer must be informed of the acquisition, relocation, or transfer of any such devices.

A PI may request an exemption from licensing or other requirements in this policy. The RSC will grant such a request only if it will maintain compliance with ADPH, Office of Radiation Control Regulations and conditions of Auburn University’s license, will not result in a significantly higher radiation dose to any individual, and will significantly enhance the ability of Auburn University to fulfill its mission.

X. INTERPRETATION

Questions related to the daily operational interpretation and application of this policy should be directed to Risk Management and Safety, (334) 844-4870 or email to radsaft@auburn.edu.