



*Protecting, Maintaining and Improving  
the Health of All Minnesotans*



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## ***MDH X-ray Unit magnets***

The MDH X-ray Unit created magnets for all registered facilities to help facilitate communication between our registrants and MDH. Please write your facility registration number on the magnet, as we refer to this number to answer your questions. If you did not receive your magnet yet, please give us a call.

### ***X-ray Focus***

*Your phone and email frequently asked questions*

#### ***Calibrating equipment***

Completion of calibration and performance evaluations are the responsibility of the registrant and the required tests must be those listed in 4732.1100. The results of these tests must comply with the minimum performance specifications of the equipment manufacturer, Code of Federal Regulations Title 21, or MDH Chapter 4732.1100. If the manufacturer does not have equipment specifications, or the equipment specifications are unknown, the registrant must comply with the minimum performance criteria in 4732.1100.

These evaluations must be performed at the time of installation prior to the use of the equipment, when there is any change or replacement of components that could cause a change in the radiation output of that system, and at the following frequencies:

- All radiographic equipment must be calibrated within 24 months of the previous evaluation
- Computed and radiographic tomography, stereographic mammography, and fluoroscopic equipment must be calibrated within 12 months of the previous evaluation
- X-ray equipment used for research must be evaluated according to the above equipment types
- Industrial x-ray equipment must be maintained according to the manufactures' specifications.

### ***Mammography Services***

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the Minnesota Department of Health's Sage Screening Program continues to offer comprehensive breast and cervical cancer control programs to women statewide. The main objective is to increase the number of age-appropriate women who are screened for breast and cervical cancer. Since 1991, over 126,000 women statewide have been screened through Sage with over 1600 breast and cervical cancers detected.

Sage offers free breast exams, mammograms and Pap tests to eligible women age 40 or over, who have no health insurance, have health insurance but a co-payment or an unmet deductible, or have health insurance that does not cover Pap tests and/or mammograms, and that meet certain income guidelines. The Sage program is available at over 400 clinics and hospitals statewide. Sage's call center and toll-free line 1-888-6HEALTH (1-888-643-2584) connect women to these services.

For questions about Outreach and Recruitment, please contact Sara Hollie at 651-201-5638 [Sara.Hollie@state.mn.us](mailto:Sara.Hollie@state.mn.us). For questions about Screening/Clinical Services, contact Jim McLean at [Jim.McLean@state.mn.us](mailto:Jim.McLean@state.mn.us) or 651-201-5620.



Chapter 4732 is available at the Minnesota Bookstore. Call 651.297.3000 or 1.800.657.3757 or order online at [www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/bookstore.asp](http://www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/bookstore.asp)

## ***Radiation Control staff***

The MDH Radiation Control Staff are much more than inspectors, we are here to provide guidance and education to facilities. Here are some things we regularly do in the radiation community:

**Phone Consultation:** As issues arise in your radiation program, or you have general questions about radiation safety, do not hesitate to call one of our inspectors for advice. Our inspectors have years of experience in the radiation community and see radiation programs implemented in a variety of different ways.

**Education:** If you would like a speaker at an event, training session, or a classroom of students entering the radiation field, we would be happy to send someone to speak about radiation safety in general, state rules, or to develop a presentation on a radiation topic of your choosing.

**Board and Professional Outreach:** Our department is making a continued effort to reach out to different professional organizations within the radiation community. We have working relationship with your Licensing Boards, and have assisted the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) and Minnesota Dental Association (MDA) to develop manuals for use in your office. We have guidance information on our website at [www.health.state.mn.us/xray](http://www.health.state.mn.us/xray), click on Quality Control.

**Calls of Concern:** If you have questions or concerns about radiation safety at a facility, you may contact MDH anonymously, and MDH will provide any necessary follow-up.

If you would like more information about any of these items, or have other thoughts about ways we may improve the work we do in the radiation community, give us a call at 651-201-4545.

## ***Service Provider email list***

We would like to increase the number of Service Providers on our bulletin email list, as we have many important articles that Service Providers would find interesting and useful.

Please forward this bulletin to your Service Provider, or if you are a Service Provider, forward it to your employer. Send requests to be added to our bulletin email list to [Kelly.Sabanjo@state.mn.us](mailto:Kelly.Sabanjo@state.mn.us). Thank you!

## ***Inspector's Corner***



### **Industrial Cabinet X-Ray Program Audit**

According to 4732.0540, each registrant must audit its program annually to ensure it is being carried out as planned. This includes industrial as well as healing arts registrants. Industrial radiographers have more items to audit than cabinet users. These registrants should examine rule parts 4732.1050 through 4732.1070 to determine these additional audit requirements.

A sample program for users of industrial cabinet x-ray machines is on our website at [www.health.state.mn.us/xray](http://www.health.state.mn.us/xray), click on 4732 Info.

### **ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable)**

What is the ALARA Principle? Minnesota Rule 4732.0110, subp. 11 defines it as “making every reasonable effort to maintain exposure to radiation as far below the dose limits as is practical, consistent with the purpose for which the registered activity is undertaken...”. Quality control, retake analysis, and operator holder safety policies are all meant to address this. Above all, efforts should be made to reduce dose to the patient by collimating to the areas of interest, and reducing the mA and time as much as possible.

### **Limited Scope Operator Exam Modules**

Please be aware that x-ray operators certified under the Limited Scope X-ray Operator exam can only take x-rays on the modules that have received a passing score. For example, an operator that only passed the chest module cannot take x-rays on the spine. If you need to take a module not initially passed or requested, please download the application and follow the same initial procedure. Because fees need to be paid for each retake, it is in your best interest to take all the modules at the same time.

If you are a Limited Scope X-ray Operator, please look at your certificate. It will only list the modules you passed. These are the only types of x-rays you can take. If we inspect your facility and find x-ray operators taking x-rays on modules they did not pass, your facility and x-ray operator may face enforcement action.