



**Radioactive Materials Unit
Minnesota Department of Health
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Date: September 21, 2007
To: All Radioactive Material Licensees
From: Radioactive Materials Unit
Subject: Verification of the Authenticity of Materials Possession Licenses

Informational Notice 2007-09

The purpose of this informational notice is to reiterate the requirements for a licensee seeking to transfer licensed material. Licensees must verify that licensees that receive materials or devices are authorized to possess the type, form, and quantity of material to be transferred. (Refer to *Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Radioactive Materials Rules*, Chapters 4731.3105, 4731.0815 and 4731.0615.) Using commercially available software, it is now possible to alter a licensee to increase the maximum possession limits and obtain unauthorized quantities of materials or devices. Therefore, licensees transferring material should practice increased vigilance to ensure that radioactive material is not used for unauthorized, inappropriate, or malevolent purposes.

When transferring licensed material, licensees should look for changes in procedures or routines that create suspicion about the legitimacy of the order or the transferee's identity. The following are some examples in established patterns of conduct:

- A significant increase in the quantity of material ordered;
- A change in location where the material is to be delivered;
- A change in type or form of material; or
- A change in key personnel, without prior notice.

Care should be exercised to verify the legitimacy of the licensee if these changes are unexplained, if the request is on letterhead which is different from previous orders, or if the information does not match the identity of the transferee. Many of these changes are generally legitimate; however, they could also be precursors to the diversion of materials for other than their authorized use. In the event that a licensee transferring material has questions about the authenticity of the transferee, the licensee should pursue further information to alleviate the concern.

In particular, MDH requests that licensee use more caution when dealing with new customers. Licensees should contact MDH, Radioactive Materials Unit at (651) 201-4400 with any concerns regarding the legitimacy of any licenses or any suspicious requests.