

Radiation Protection in Educational Institutions, NCRP Report No. 157, Radiation Protection in Educational Institutions, 2007, 155 pp. (hard cover), \$50.00, PDF \$40.00, National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 400, Bethesda, MD 20814-3095; ISBN-13: 978-0-929600-94-9; www.NCRPpublications.org.

THE NATIONAL Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) has prepared NCRP Report No. 157, Radiation Protection in Educational Institutions. This report supersedes the similarly titled NCRP Report No. 32 released in 1966. The substantive chapters address: Radiation Basics and Protection; Types Locations and Uses of Sources; Legal and Regulatory Responsibilities; Administrative Responsibilities; Radiation Safety Program Management; and Checklists and Appendices, summarizing useful information and responsibilities.

The following excerpt from the Executive Summary reflects the intended audience: “This report is intended primarily for those

institutions that do not need a full-time radiation safety professional because the uses and radiation levels of the sources are limited. In these instances, an individual with limited expertise in radiation safety (e.g., a professor, teacher, researcher, or general safety staff member) could assume the responsibility for implementing the radiation safety program.”

Unfortunately, a large portion of this target audience may not be familiar with the NCRP, and I fear the demand for this publication will be light. While NCRP Report No. 157 is not perfect, full-time radiation safety professionals who may be in a position to advise smaller or fledgling programs are encouraged to recommend it. There is enough valuable information for the dedicated, part-time radiation safety professional to justify the modest price tag.

In my opinion, the highlights of the report are:

- Chapter 4, Types, Locations and Uses of Sources—This chapter is an excellent summary of the typical uses of radioactive materials and sources of ionizing radiation in educational institutions and may help small programs identify areas that may need attention;
- Chapter 5, Legal and Regulatory Responsibilities—This chapter very simply directs the reader as to what type of

license(s), if any, may be required and what regulatory agencies may have jurisdiction;

- Chapter 6, Administrative Responsibilities—This chapter provides guidance and references to administrators as to the responsibilities required of an institution and a good idea of the scope of what a radiation safety program should look like at their institution.

While reviewing this report, I longed for a simpler document that would be an easier read and less intimidating for the target audience. The sheer quantity of information provided in Chapters 3 and 7, entitled “Radiation Basics and Protection” and “Radiation Safety Program Management,” would be difficult to digest if one were not already familiar with the material. A part-time radiation safety professional or administrator responsible for a small radiation safety program could easily be

overwhelmed by the information. I recognize that in today’s litigious society and more sophisticated regulatory climate, simplicity can be an elusive target, and I understand the challenges this must have presented to the authors.

In conclusion, NCRP Report No. 157 is a useful reference manual for small radiation safety programs. Part-time radiation safety professionals and administrators who are not overwhelmed by the volume of information will benefit the most.

PATRICK J. McDERMOTT

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Rutgers Environmental Health & Safety
27 Road 1, Piscataway, NJ 08854
mcdermot@rehs.rutgers.edu