

**BY ORDER OF THE  
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
POLICY DIRECTIVE 40-2**



**DECEMBER 19, 2024**

**Medical Command**

**RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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This Department of the Air Force Policy Directive implements Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6055.08, *Occupational Ionizing Radiation Protection Program*. This publication applies to all civilian employees and uniformed members of the Regular Air Force, the United States Space Force, the Air Force Reserve, and the Air National Guard who acquire or possess radioactive materials subject to this publication. This directive establishes policy for the control of radioactive materials within the possession of the Department of the Air Force, including those radioactive materials regulated by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission; but excludes those used in nuclear weapons or those that are otherwise exempted from regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, including radioactive materials transferred from the Department of Energy to the Department of Defense as components of nuclear weapon systems, certain radioactive components of weapons systems, nuclear reactor systems components and fuel controlled under Title 42 United States Code (USC) Section 2121 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and Department of Energy activities related to SAFE HAVEN requirements. This directive excludes radioactive material under the authority and control of the Defense Health Agency (DHA), licensed in accordance with DHA licensing procedures, and covered in DHA Administrative Instruction 087, *Radiation Safety Program*. Ensure all records generated as a result of processes prescribed in this publication adhere to Air Force Instruction (AFI) 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and are disposed in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule, which is located in the Air Force Records Information Management System. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the office of primary responsibility using the Department of the Air Force Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route DAF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional

chain of command to the Air Force Medical Command Bioenvironmental Engineering Branch (AFMED/SG3PB), 7700 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, VA 22041. This DAFPD may not be supplemented.

### ***SUMMARY OF CHANGES***

This document has been revised and should be completely reviewed. Changes include removal of DAF from radiation safety and radioactive material licensing responsibilities that are within the authority, direction, and control of DHA, as well as updated roles and responsibilities.

**1. POLICY.** The use of radioactive materials is beneficial and often essential in research, development, and operational activities in the Department of the Air Force. However, there are potential hazards associated with these materials that must be controlled to protect human health and the environment. Management of materials is necessary to ensure not only safety but to meet legal requirements set forth by federal agencies.

1.1. **The Department of the Air Force** shall, in order to minimize hazards associated with radioactive material, which may threaten human health and the environment:

1.1.1. Limit the use of radioactive materials as much as possible.

1.1.2. Use radioactive materials only when justified.

1.1.3. Maintain radiation exposures to workers and the public below federal regulatory limits and as low as is reasonably achievable.

1.1.4. Use radioactive materials on DAF installations only when the material has a valid permit or license if applicable, and when approved by command authority.

1.1.5. Allow only individuals qualified by appropriate training and experience to use, supervise the use of, train others, and oversee radioactive material programs.

1.1.6. Maintain a formal program to manage and assess compliance with this and Department of Defense policy, provisions of the Air Force Master Materials License and with radioactive material permits.

### **2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.**

2.1. **The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Installations, Environment and Energy (SAF/IE)** shall:

2.1.1. Oversee radiation safety and radioactive materials management duties as outlined in Headquarters Air Force Mission Directive (HAFMD) 1-18, *Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations, Environment and Energy)*.

2.1.2. Appoint a co-chair for the Air Force Radioisotope Committee with the Department of the Air Force Surgeon General appointee.

2.2. **The Department of the Air Force Surgeon General (AF/SG)** shall:

2.2.1. Provide policy, advocate for resources, oversee the control of radioactive materials in the Department of the Air Force and enforce compliance with permit requirements under the Master Materials License through the inspection process.

2.2.2. Coordinate with agencies external to the DAF, specifically, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) and the DHA concerning development of Department of Defense policy, and in coordination with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Manpower and Reserve Affairs (SAF/MR).

2.2.3. Appoint a co-chair for the Air Force Radioisotope Committee with a SAF/IE appointee.

2.2.4. Manage the Air Force Radioisotope Committee, which shall:

2.2.4.1. Regulate and manage the Air Force Master Materials License, on behalf of the Secretary of the Air Force as the licensee.

2.2.4.2. Manage the DAF use of radioactive materials and approve or deny such use in accordance with requirements within the Air Force Master Material License.

2.3. **The Inspector General** shall inspect DAF radioactive material permits in a manner consistent with Nuclear Regulatory Commission policies and the Air Force Master Material License and other radiation protection programs as required by the Radioisotope Committee and the Air Force Safety Center.

2.4. **The Major Command (MAJCOM) and Field Command (FLDCOM) Commanders** shall:

2.4.1. Utilize subordinate commanders of DAF organizations using radioactive materials to ensure compliance the Air Force Master Material License, ensure only authorized activities are conducted, establish programs to ensure activities are safely performed, and provide resources needed to comply with this policy.

2.4.2. Utilize radiation safety officers appointed by subordinate commanders to manage radioactive material programs established by their commanders to ensure activities are safely performed, and to comply with federal regulations, the radioactive materials license or permit, and any Air Force policies and procedures associated with radioactive materials.

2.4.3. Ensure only qualified individuals work with radioactive materials.

2.5. **The Air Force Safety Center** shall ensure that the Weapons Safety Division (AFSEC/SEW) will coordinate with the Air Force Radioisotope Committee on matters pertaining to 91(b) radioactive material permits as issued and overseen by AFSEC/SEW in accordance with AFD 91-1, *Nuclear Weapons and Systems Surety*.

FRANK KENDALL  
Secretary of the Air Force

**Attachment 1****GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

42 USC § 2121, *Atomic Energy Act of 1954*

DoDI 6055.08, *Occupational Ionizing Radiation Protection Program*, 9 April 2021

HAFMD 1-18, *Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations, Environment and Energy)*, 10 July 2014

AFPD 91-1, *Nuclear Weapons and Systems Surety*, 24 October 2019

DHA Administrative Instruction 087, *Radiation Safety Program*, 28 July 2021

AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, 23 March 2020

***Prescribed Forms***

None

***Adopted Forms***

DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**AFI**—Air Force Instruction

**DAF**—Department of the Air Force

**DHA**—Defense Health Agency

***Office Symbols***

**AF/SG**—Air Force Surgeon General

**AFMED/SG3PB**—Air Force Medical Agency, Bioenvironmental Engineering Branch

**AFSEC/SEW**—Air Force Safety Center Weapons Safety Division

**SAF/IE**—Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Installations, Environment and Energy

**SAF/MR**—Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Manpower and Reserve Affairs

***Terms***

**Air Force Master Materials License**—The single Nuclear Regulatory Commission license issued to the Air Force and managed by the Air Force Radioisotope Committee.

**Air Force Radioactive Material Permit**—Written authorization from the Air Force Radioisotope Committee for Air Force organizations to receive, possess, distribute, use, transfer, or dispose of radioactive materials.

**Air Force Radioisotope Committee**—A committee established to satisfy the requirements of the Air Force master materials license to coordinate the administrative and regulatory aspects of

licensing, possessing, distributing, using, transferring, transporting and disposing of all radioactive material in the Air Force except that transferred from Department of Energy to the Department of Defense in nuclear weapon systems, certain radioactive components of weapons systems and nuclear reactor systems, components and fuel controlled under Section 91 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

**As Low As Reasonably Achievable**—The principle that personnel exposures must be maintained as low as possible consistent with existing technology, cost, and operational requirements.

**Installation**—Locations including Air Force bases, Air Force leased space, city-bases, Air Force operations on a Department of Defense or coalition base, and Space Force bases.

**License**—Written authorization to receive, possess, use, or transfer byproduct, source, or special nuclear material.

**Permit**—Shortened term for written authorization from an appropriate authority for Air Force organizations to receive, possess, distribute, use, transfer, or dispose of radioactive materials. See also Air Force Radioactive Material Permit.

**Radiation Safety Officer**—An individual with specific education, military training, and professional experience in radiation protection practice designated by a commander to manage radiation safety programs. The term "Radiation Safety Officer" is a functional title and does not denote a commissioned status or job classification.

**Radioactive Material**—Material whose nuclei, because of their unstable nature, decay by emission of ionizing radiation. The radiation emitted may be alpha or beta particles, gamma or neutrons.

**SAFE HAVEN**—Temporary storage and protection provided for Department of Energy classified shipment transporters at Department of Defense facilities to ensure safety and security of nuclear material or non-nuclear classified material.