



### Qualified Operators

A worker who has the responsibility for the day to day use of radiation sources and has communication, analytical and human-machine interface skills to perform the work effectively and safely. Leadership skills may be necessary in supervisory functions. Qualified operators should be trained in the operation of the equipment and should have a high level of expertise in their area of work.

Educational requirements for qualified operators will vary considerably depending on the application. For many applications, a secondary educational level should be the minimum requirement.

On the job training is essential. A qualified operator should have had several years of supervised working experience in a specific practice before being recognized as qualified.

#### Examples:

- ✓ Qualified operators in industrial radiography should be radiographers trained to the appropriate standard, in an equivalent standard or by the corresponding national industrial society, for example the American Society for Non-destructive Testing. These standards shall also specify a minimum level of training in radiation protection. Qualified industrial radiographers shall be trained in a range of techniques for carrying out radiography in a range of workplaces and may also be trained in the accurate interpretation of the radiographs produced. They should be trained in potential hazards associated with radiation, safe working procedures and emergency plans.
- ✓ Qualified operators of a paper thickness gauging system, for example, should be trained in the specific working procedures associated with the routine operation of the gauge, including the threading of the line and replacement of gauge foils. They should also be trained in actions to take in the event of, for example, a mechanical failure, damage to the gauge head or fire.
- ✓ Qualified operators in diagnostic radiology should be diagnostic radiographers. They should be trained in proper examination procedures and should be aware of the levels of radiation dose to patients that are associated with specific procedures. Quality assurance associated with the operation of X-ray equipment and with imaging procedures should be an essential component of an operator's training.

**Minimum training requirements:** Minimum training would cover the safe use of radiation sources in the specific practice, local rules and procedures, including safety and warning systems, and emergency procedures. Many of the topics specified in the training for RPOs will also be appropriate for operators.