



Radiation Protection Officer (RPO)

A person technically competent in Radiation Protection matters relevant for a given type of Regulated Activity with Regulated Material who is designated by the Licensee to oversee the application of relevant requirements established in this regulation.

RPO's have common core information on protection and safety as related to their field of practice and need to have specific personal attributes, such as communication skills, leadership and analytical skills, human-machine interface skills and multitask management skills. The RPO shall also have knowledge about applicable regulations.

Radiation protection officers or other specialist technicians should generally have a scientific or technical diploma

Examples:

- ✓ In a non-destructive testing company, a radiation protection officer should be concerned with safe operation in fixed industrial radiography or with mobile devices on site. The radiation protection officer will be required to supervise, for example, the setting up of barriers around controlled areas and the explanation of local rules, the provision of personal dosimetry services, dose rate monitoring, the transport and storage of sources, and the implementation of emergency response plans, including those for misplaced or lost sources
- ✓ In an industry using gauging systems, a radiation protection officer should supervise radiation protection measures relating to gauge operation, maintenance, leak testing, and exchange, storage of sources and the explanation of local rules.
- ✓ In a medical facility, a radiation protection officer should have responsibilities associated with radiation safety, including the protection of workers and patients and ensuring the appropriate condition of the equipment used. A medical facility may have a number of radiation protection officers, each with a specific responsibility include the explanation of local rules, such as for diagnostic radiology, radiotherapy and nuclear medicine. They may also be responsible for operations involving radioactive waste management in the facility.
- ✓ In research laboratories, a radiation protection officer should be responsible for the supervision of the safe handling of sealed and unsealed radiation sources and radiation generating equipment. Duties may include the explanation of local rules and working procedures to staff, dose monitoring and the implementation of emergency procedures in the event of an accident such as a spill of radioactive material. The importance of a safety culture should be stressed to laboratory workers.
- ✓ The educational level of a radiation protection officer will be dependent on the skills and technical requirements of the job as well as on radiation protection needs. Education to a secondary level should be the minimum requirement for a radiation protection officer for level gauges, for instance. However, for some applications, a tertiary educational level may be considered appropriate.