

Use of Shared Radioactive Material Areas

The Radiation Safety Committee and the Radiation Safety Office are committed to ensuring that radioactive material is used appropriately and in conjunction with the established procedures of the University and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). In order to ensure user conformity with these procedures in shared facilities, the Committee has outlined the following conditions for users of these areas.

If an Authorized User performs any activities involving radioactive materials in an area, that facility must be registered under their authorization, regardless of the number of other users of that facility or what department controls the facility.

As in non-shared locations, each Authorized User sharing the facility is responsible for management of the radiation safety requirements for the facility, including routine instrument surveys, contamination surveys, waste storage/handling and security issues.

Arrangements amongst users of a shared facility may be made to determine who will perform what requirements for these facilities, but ultimately each individual Authorized User is responsible for ensuring that the requirements are met.

Monthly contamination survey results may be shared and kept by each Authorized User, or the results may be posted in the shared facility with a list of all of the Authorized Users responsible for the facility.

Security of shared facilities is also the responsibility of all users. All shared facilities in which radioactive materials or wastes are stored unattended must be secured. Shared counting rooms do not have to be locked provided no waste containers or other radioactive materials are stored in that location. Additionally, alternative mechanisms for securing the stored radioactive material and waste may allow the facility to remain unlocked.

Lab audit findings in a shared facility will be assigned to all Authorized Users of a location, unless the finding can be directly assigned to a particular user. Therefore, it is in every Authorized User's interest to take responsibility and work with other users of the facility to ensure that requirements are met.