

Radiation Safety

The University of Maryland College Park (UMCP) holds a Broad Scope license for use of Radioactive Materials (RAM) which includes University of Maryland Center of Environmental Science (UMCES) at Appalachian Lab, Chesapeake Biological Lab, and Horn Point Lab. The UMCP Broad Scope License for Radioactive Materials governs the use of RAM and radiation producing devices at these laboratories. All personnel using radioactive sources are expected to be familiar with and abide by these requirements. Failure to comply could jeopardize the user's safety and that of others, as well as the authorization to use radioactive materials or radiation producing devices on CES' campuses and areas off campus under UM administrative control. UMCES is subject to periodic audits by the State of Maryland, Department of the Environment, and US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Radioactive Material License. The Radiation Safety Committee at College Park reviews the Program on an annual basis to ensure effective operation and compliance with both State and Federal regulations.

If you are interested in using any radioactive materials or radiation producing equipment please contact the Environmental Safety Compliance Officer (ESCO). You will be required to take an online Radiation Safety Course which includes a half day of hands on experience and a written test. If you have used Radioactive Materials in the past you must have documentation from that facility. If you are a first time user of radioisotopes you will be completely supervised by an Authorized or Principal User until they feel you are competent unsupervised. Once you have become competent you will apply for a "Users License". Your application will be reviewed and approved by the University of MD College Park (UMCP) Radiation Safety Committee.

RADIATION SAFETY PROCEDURES:

- Observe signage on lab doors. Labs with radioactive materials (RAM) are "restricted areas". If you are not an approved user of radioactive materials you must read the information posted on the door for "non-users of radioactive material" and sign in (one time per radioactive lab you may work in).
- No food or drink is permitted in labs. Do not discard food wrappers, soda cans, or any food containers in laboratory trash cans as this give the appearance that food or beverage was consumed in the lab and this is a violation.
- When an approved user is not present in the lab the radioactive material must be properly secured. This means placing in a locked refrigerator or cabinet; or locking the laboratory door to prevent unauthorized entry.
- Always wear the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) when working with RAM.
- Wear the appropriate radiation monitors, if required.
- Report ALL spills and accidental contaminations to the Environmental Safety Compliance Officer (ESCO).
- Contact the Environmental Safety Compliance Officer (ESCO) for disposal of all RAM.

For information on [Radiation Producing Materials](http://www.des.umd.edu/rs/index.html), [Radiation Producing Equipment](http://www.des.umd.edu/rs/index.html), [Lasers, Training, Manuals, Guidelines, and Policy](http://www.des.umd.edu/rs/index.html) go to:
<http://www.des.umd.edu/rs/index.html>.

For more information and/or suggestions contact the Environmental Safety Compliance Officer (ESCO) at Ext. 8441 or Email hpl-safety@hpl.umces.edu