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**Safety in Secondary Science KS3 & KS4**

**Radioactive Substances**

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**See also:**

* CLEAPSS *Guide L093: Managing ionising radiations and radioactive substances*.
* CLEAPSS *Guide PS 075: Should the RPS be a technician or a teacher?*
* CLEAPSS Guide GL079: Radioactivity: instrumentation for leak tests and contamination checks

**Radioactive substances**

Schools maintained by the Local Authority are covered by the CLEAPSS Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA) Service once their sources have been registered with the HIAS Science Team. Academies are not automatically covered and may be purchased from Hampshire County Service. Contact the HIAS Science team for details. [Kevin.Neil@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Kevin.Neil@hants.gov.uk)

Many schools use the following sources of ionising radiations:

* closed/sealed sources
* special sources such as protactinium generators and thoron generators (for half-life demonstrations).

The appropriate legal framework is the *Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017*

**Radiation protection**

**RPS(Schools)**

* Every school with radioactive substances should appoint a *radiation protection supervisor* (RPS) who is in a position to oversee the correct storage, testing and use of the materials. Training courses for RPS are provided in the County by CLEAPSS as demand requires.

**RPO**

* The Children’s Services Department has a *radiation protection officer* (RPO) who is a member of the HIAS Science Team. She/he should be the first point of contact for the school in the event of a query.  
   Details are available on the HIAS science website, or by contacting the County Inspector/Adviser for Science: [Kevin.neil@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Kevin.neil@hants.gov.uk).  
  **In an emergency situation, your first point of contact should be CLEAPSS**

**RPA**

* The Children’s Services Department has bought into the CLEAPSS *Radiation Protection Adviser Service* in order for schools to have access to expert technical advice.   
  Contact should be made via the RPO or CLEAPSS in the first instance.

**Documentation**

* Documents showing the history of each radioactive item should be kept, including the date and method of disposal. Disposal should always be agreed upon with CLEAPSS and the RPO in advance.
* A log of use should be updated each time a source is removed and returned to the store.
* Leak testing should be carried out annually and a monitoring record updated.
* CLEAPSS Form 1 should always be up to date and available for the RPO upon inspection.

Local rules are required for establishments holding radioactive substances. Model local rules are available in the CLEAPSS *Guide L093* and these should be adapted as appropriate to local circumstances.