

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING IN VETERINARY PRACTICES

HSE state that for Regulatory compliance:

some periodic monitoring should be carried out around the outside of controlled areas to check that the designation remains correct and that there has been no change or deterioration (eg increased workload, loss of integrity of containment etc). This can be done by use of TLDs mounted inside the controlled area (in various places as appropriate, and different locations can be used each time) or dose rate surveys carried out by the RPA.

RpaVet at each inspection carries out extensive survey meter readings to demonstrate the effectiveness of the controlled area boundary structures in attenuating scattered radiation sufficiently. Any deficiency is conveyed to the practice and a remedy advised. Although the *periodic* time scale is not clarified by HSE they now insist on practice monitoring. Previous advice in local rules indicating that it is impracticable for practices to initiate monitoring with available personal dosimeters is now modified to include HSE demands.

Sensitivity of both TLD and OSL monitors is such that it remains unlikely that any scatter exposure even within the controlled area will be recorded on such devices during the period of use. Positioning monitors outside the controlled is therefore even less likely to give positive results even with a catastrophic failure of the whole barrier.



However, we are now instructed to carry out such monitoring and the RpaVet suggestion is for a TLD or OSL monitor to be placed (facing inwards) outside the controlled area on a boundary structure. This monitor should be left in place for the duration of use (eg 3 months for a TLD dosimeter). The monitor is returned to the Approved Dosemetry Service and then reused on a different boundary section. With multiple applications or complex controlled areas more than one dosimeter may be required.

HSE states correctly (as has RpaVet on multiple occasions) that the placing of a static TLD inside the controlled area is unnecessary. Any such monitor can be relocated to act as an environmental monitor outside.