



K A N S A S

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

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KANSAS INFORMATION NOTICE 05-02

SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PORTABLE GAUGES CONTAINING BYPRODUCT MATERIAL.

Addressees

All Kansas licensees authorized to possess, use, transport, and store portable gauges.

Purpose

The State of Kansas is issuing this Information Notice (IN) to inform licensees of the regulation amendment governing the use of byproduct material in licensed portable gauges.

Description of Circumstances

There are an estimated 22,000 to 25,000 portable gauges in use in the United States. K.A.R. 28-35-222a addresses storage and control of licensed material. This regulation requires licensees to secure from unauthorized removal or access licensed materials that are stored in controlled or unrestricted areas. This regulation also requires licensees to control and maintain constant surveillance of licensed material that is in a controlled or unrestricted area and that is not in storage. Despite these requirements, the theft of portable gauges continues at a rate of approximately 50 gauges per year with a less than 50-percent recovery rate. More than two-thirds of the stolen gauges were taken from vehicles parked outdoors. In most of these incidents, the gauge was in a U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) "Type A" transportation case, which was then secured with a metal chain to the open bed of a pickup truck. Frequently, the chain was cut or the transportation case was broken, and then the gauge was stolen. NRC has issued several "Information Notices" to increase licensees' awareness of security concerns regarding portable gauges. However, the yearly number of reported incidents has not changed in response to these notices. Although the amount of radioactive material used in a portable gauge is relatively small, and the radioactive material is encapsulated in stainless steel, unauthorized removal of portable gauges still poses a potential public health and safety concern. A portable gauge that is not under the control of a licensee poses a potential radiation hazard to individuals that may come in close contact with the source. It also creates a concern if the portable gauge that is removed without authorization is abandoned, inadvertently recycled, or used inappropriately.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT

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Discussion

When the regulations are issued, a portable gauge licensee will be required to use a minimum of two independent physical controls that form tangible barriers to secure portable gauges from unauthorized removal whenever the portable gauges are not under the control and constant surveillance of the licensee. The primary intent of this rulemaking is to increase licensee's control of portable gauges to reduce the opportunity for unauthorized removal or theft.

This information does not require any specific action or written response. If you have any questions about the information in this notice, please do not hesitate to contact this office.