

Virginia Administrative Code  
Title 12. Health  
Agency 5. Department Of Health  
Chapter 481. Virginia Radiation Protection Regulations

## **Part IX. Radiation Safety Requirements For Particle Accelerators**

### **Article 1. Purpose and Scope**

#### **12VAC5-481-2140. Purpose and scope.**

A. This part establishes procedures for the registration and the use of particle accelerators.

B. In addition to the requirements of this part, all registrants are subject to the requirements of Parts I (12VAC5-481-10 et seq.), II (12VAC5-481-260 et seq.), III (12VAC5-481-380 et seq.), IV (12VAC5-481-600 et seq.), and X (12VAC5-481-2250 et seq.) of this chapter. Registrants engaged in industrial radiographic operations are subject to the requirements of Part V (12VAC5-481-1170 et seq.) of this chapter, and registrants engaged in the healing arts are subject to the requirements of Parts VI (12VAC5-481-1580 et seq.) and VII (12VAC5-481-1660 et seq.) of this chapter. Registrants whose operations result in the production of radioactive material are subject to the requirements of Part III (12VAC5-481-380 et seq.) of this chapter.

#### **Statutory Authority**

§ 32.1-229 of the Code of Virginia.

#### **Historical Notes**

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 25, eff. September 20, 2006.

### **Article 2. Registration Procedures**

#### **12VAC5-481-2150. Registration requirements.**

No person shall receive, possess, use, transfer, own, or acquire a particle accelerator except as authorized in a registration issued pursuant to Part II (12VAC5-481-260 et seq.) or III (12VAC5-481-380 et seq.) of this chapter.

#### **Statutory Authority**

§ 32.1-229 of the Code of Virginia.

#### **Historical Notes**

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 25, eff. September 20, 2006.

#### **12VAC5-481-2160. General requirements for the issuance of a registration for particle accelerators.**

In addition to the requirements of Part II (12VAC5-481-260 et seq.) or III (12VAC5-481-380 et seq.) of this chapter, a registration application for use of a particle accelerator will be approved only if the agency determines that:

1. The applicant is qualified by reason of training and experience to use the accelerator in question for the purpose requested in accordance with this part and Parts IV (12VAC5-481-600 et seq.) and X (12VAC5-481-2250 et seq.) of this chapter in such a manner as to minimize danger to public health and safety or property;
2. The applicant's proposed or existing equipment, facilities, and operating and emergency procedures are adequate to protect health and minimize danger to public health and safety or property;
3. The issuance of the registration will not be inimical to the health and safety of the public, and the applicant satisfies any applicable special requirement in 12VAC5-481-2170;

4. The applicant has appointed a radiation safety officer;
5. The applicant and the applicant's staff have substantial experience in the use of particle accelerators and training sufficient for application to its intended uses;
6. The applicant has established a radiation safety committee to approve, in advance, proposals for uses of particle accelerators, whenever deemed necessary by the agency; and
7. The applicant has an adequate training program for operators of particle accelerators.

**Statutory Authority**

§ 32.1-229 of the Code of Virginia.

**Historical Notes**

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 25, eff. September 20, 2006.

**12VAC5-481-2170. Human use of particle accelerators.**

In addition to the requirements of Part II (12VAC5-481-260 et seq.) of this chapter, a registration for use of a particle accelerator in the healing arts will be issued only if:

1. The applicant has appointed a medical committee of at least three members to evaluate all proposals for research, diagnostic, and therapeutic use of a particle accelerator whenever deemed necessary by the agency. Membership of the committee should include physicians expert in internal medicine, hematology, therapeutic radiology, and a person experienced in depth dose calculations and protection against radiation;
2. The individuals designated on the application as the users have substantial training and experience in deep therapy techniques or in the use of particle accelerators to treat humans; and
3. The individual designated on the application as the user is a physician.

**Statutory Authority**

§ 32.1-229 of the Code of Virginia.

**Historical Notes**

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 25, eff. September 20, 2006.

**Article 3. Radiation Safety Requirements for Use of Particle Accelerators**

**12VAC5-481-2180. Limitations.**

A. No registrant shall permit any individual to act as an operator of a particle accelerator until such individual:

1. Has been instructed in radiation safety and shall have demonstrated an understanding thereof;
2. Has received copies of and instruction in this part and the applicable requirements of Parts IV (12VAC5-481-600 et seq.) and X (12VAC5-481-2250 et seq.) of this chapter, pertinent registration conditions and the registrant's operating and emergency procedures, and shall have demonstrated understanding thereof; and
3. Has demonstrated competence to use the particle accelerator, related equipment, and survey instruments that will be employed.

B. The radiation safety committee or the radiation safety officer shall have the authority to terminate the operations at a particle accelerator facility if such action is deemed necessary to minimize danger to public health and safety or property.

**Statutory Authority**

§ 32.1-229 of the Code of Virginia.

**Historical Notes**

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 25, eff. September 20, 2006.

**12VAC5-481-2190. Shielding and safety design requirements.**

A. A private inspector, acceptable to the agency, shall be consulted in the design of a particle accelerator installation and called upon to perform a radiation survey when the accelerator is first capable of producing radiation.

B. Each particle accelerator installation shall be provided with such primary and secondary barriers as are necessary to assure compliance with 12VAC5-481-630.

**Statutory Authority**

§ 32.1-229 of the Code of Virginia.

**Historical Notes**

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 25, eff. September 20, 2006.

**12VAC5-481-2200. Particle accelerator controls and interlock systems.**

A. Instrumentation, readouts, and controls on the particle accelerator control console shall be clearly identified and easily discernible.

B. Each entrance into a target room or other high radiation area shall be provided with a safety interlock that shuts down the machine under conditions of barrier penetration.

C. Each safety interlock shall be on a circuit that shall allow it to operate independently of all other safety interlocks.

D. All safety interlocks shall be designed so that any defect or component failure in the safety interlock system prevents operation of the accelerator.

E. When a safety interlock system has been tripped, it shall only be possible to resume operation of the accelerator by manually resetting controls at the position where the safety interlock has been tripped and, lastly, at the main control console.

F. A scram button or other emergency power cutoff switch shall be located and easily identifiable in all high radiation areas. Such a cutoff switch shall include a manual reset so that the accelerator cannot be restarted from the accelerator control console without resetting the cutoff switch.

**Statutory Authority**

§ 32.1-229 of the Code of Virginia.

**Historical Notes**

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 25, eff. September 20, 2006.

**12VAC5-481-2210. Warning devices.**

A. Each location designated as a high radiation area, and each entrance to such location, shall be equipped with easily observable warning lights that operate when, and only when, radiation is being produced.

B. Except in facilities designed for human exposure, each high radiation area shall have an audible warning device which shall be activated for 15 seconds prior to the possible creation of such high radiation area. Such warning device shall be clearly discernible in all high radiation areas.

C. Barriers, temporary or otherwise, and pathways leading to high radiation areas shall be posted in accordance with 12VAC5-481-660.

**Statutory Authority**

§ 32.1-229 of the Code of Virginia.

**Historical Notes**

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 25, eff. September 20, 2006.

**12VAC5-481-2220. Operating procedures.**

- A. Particle accelerators, when not in operation, shall be secured to prevent unauthorized use.
- B. The safety interlock system shall not be used to turn off the accelerator beam except in an emergency.
- C. All safety and warning devices, including interlocks, shall be checked for proper operation at intervals not to exceed three months. Results of such tests shall be maintained at the accelerator facility for inspection by the agency.
- D. Electrical circuit diagrams of the accelerator and the associated safety interlock systems shall be kept current and maintained for inspection by the agency and shall be available to the operator at each accelerator facility.
- E. If, for any reason, it is necessary to intentionally bypass a safety interlock or interlocks, such action shall be:
  - 1. Authorized by the radiation safety committee or radiation safety officer;
  - 2. Recorded in a permanent log and a notice posted at the accelerator control console; and
  - 3. Terminated as soon as possible.
- F. A copy of the current operating and the emergency procedures shall be maintained at the accelerator control panel.

**Statutory Authority**

§ 32.1-229 of the Code of Virginia.

**Historical Notes**

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 25, eff. September 20, 2006.

**12VAC5-481-2230. Radiation monitoring requirements.**

- A. There shall be available at each particle accelerator facility appropriate portable monitoring equipment that is operable and has been appropriately calibrated for the radiations being produced at the facility. Such equipment shall be tested for proper operation daily and calibrated at intervals not to exceed one year and after each servicing and repair.
- B. A radiation survey shall be performed and documented by a private inspector, acceptable to the agency, when changes have been made in shielding, operation, equipment, or occupancy of adjacent areas.
- C. Radiation levels in all high radiation areas shall be continuously monitored. The monitoring devices shall be electrically independent of the accelerator control and safety interlock systems and capable of providing a readout at the control panel.
- D. All area monitors shall be calibrated at intervals not to exceed one year and after each servicing and repair.
- E. Whenever applicable, periodic surveys shall be made to determine the amount of airborne particulate radioactivity present.
- F. Whenever applicable, periodic smear surveys shall be made to determine the degree of contamination.
- G. All surveys shall be made in accordance with the written procedures established by a private inspector, acceptable to the agency, or the radiation safety officer.
- H. Records of all radiation protection surveys, calibrations, and instrumentation tests shall be maintained at the accelerator facility.

**Statutory Authority**

§ 32.1-229 of the Code of Virginia.

**Historical Notes**

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 25, eff. September 20, 2006; amended, Virginia Register Volume 24, Issue 18, eff. June 12, 2008.

**12VAC5-481-2240. Ventilation systems.**

A. Ventilation systems shall be provided to ensure that personnel entering any area where airborne radioactivity may be produced will not be exposed to airborne radioactive material in excess of those limits specified in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 20.

B. A registrant, as required in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 20 shall not vent, release, or otherwise discharge airborne radioactive material to an unrestricted area which exceeds the limits specified in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 20, except as authorized pursuant to 12VAC5-481-730. For purposes of this subsection concentrations may be averaged over a period not greater than one year. Every effort should be made to maintain releases of radioactive material to unrestricted areas as far below these limits as is reasonably achievable.

**Statutory Authority**

§ 32.1-229 of the Code of Virginia.

**Historical Notes**

Derived from Virginia Register Volume 22, Issue 25, eff. September 20, 2006; amended, Virginia Register Volume 24, Issue 18, eff. June 12, 2008; Volume 32, Issue 24, eff. August 25, 2016.

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