

Radiation licensing – information for applicants¹

Updated October 2019

EPA 986/19: This information sheet details the requirements for persons applying for a licence, under the Radiation Protection and Control Act 1982 (RPC Act), to use or handle radioactive substances, or operate ionising radiation apparatus.

Introduction

Under section 28 of the RPC Act, for persons using or handling radioactive substances, and under section 31 of the RPC Act, for persons operating ionising radiation apparatus, are required to be licensed unless:

1. the person or the radiation source is of a prescribed class. In relation to radioactive substances, the requirements of a prescribed class are set out in regulation 124, and in relation to ionising radiation apparatus, regulation 56; or
2. persons or classes of persons have been granted an exemption under section 44 of the RPC Act.

Licensing legislation

Under sections 28 and 31 of the RPC Act, to be granted a licence to use or handle radioactive substances or operate ionising radiation apparatus you must:

1. be a fit and proper person to hold a licence; and
2. have the qualifications prescribed under regulation 57 of the *Radiation Protection and Control (Ionising Radiation) Regulations 2015* (the Regulations); or
3. have the appropriate knowledge of the principles and practices of radiation protection to carry on the activities and operations covered by the licence; and
4. have submitted an application form, with the appropriate fee, to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Note: if you hold a licence from another State of Australia, including the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory, you may seek to obtain an equivalent licence in South Australia under the Australian Government's *Mutual Recognition Act 1992*².

The application process

Once your application has been received, the EPA assesses your suitability for a licence, in accordance with the above legislative requirements, using the following process:

¹ Earlier versions of this document was titled *Licence prerequisites for operators of X-ray apparatus*.

² <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2017C00372>

1. If you do not hold a licence from another State of Australia:
 - a. to establish that you are a fit and proper person, the EPA may seek to verify you have the attributes of competency, good character, diligence, honesty, integrity and judgement
 - b. if you have a prescribed qualification, under regulation 57 of the Regulations, consideration is given to granting a licence on that basis;
 - c. if you do not possess a prescribed qualification under regulation 57, to establish that you have knowledge of the principles and practices of radiation protection to carry on the operations and activities covered under the licence, you would be required to:
 - i. demonstrate that you possess a vocational qualification listed in the application form; or
 - ii. in conjunction with a consideration of your qualifications, skills, and experience, be assessed by passing an EPA examination. The examination topics, will be provided in the form of an examination syllabus upon application. Note: applicants may benefit from training or tutoring in the examination topics;
 - d. where persons have previously held a licence in South Australia within the last five years, but have allowed their licence to lapse, the EPA will consider this in support of your application.
2. If you hold a licence from another State of Australia and wish to lodge a mutual recognition notice, the EPA may:
 - a. grant the licence on the grounds of the interstate licence; or
 - b. within one month after the notice is lodged, postpone or refuse to grant the licence.
3. Once an application for a licence has been considered, as discussed in sections 1 and 2 above:
 - a. the EPA may grant a three-month temporary licence, under sections 28 or 31 of the RPC Act. This allows time for the application for a licence to be referred to the Radiation Protection Committee for its advice in relation to the application, as is required under section 35 of the RPC Act;
 - b. once the EPA has given due consideration to the advice of the committee, a licence may be granted with a renewal period of at least 12 months.

Instructions to applicants

1. Submit an application form with the appropriate fee to the EPA. Application forms are available from the EPA website³: *Licence to operate apparatus* and *Licence to use or handle substances*⁴.
2. If you do not hold a licence from another State of Australia, provide with your application, the relevant documentary evidence in support of your application including:
 - a. proof of relevant professional qualification (eg certificate, diploma, degree, or equivalent)
 - b. proof of registration with a professional body, in accordance with the operations and qualifications of Regulation 57 (refer to the relevant application form);
 - c. proof of relevant vocational qualification (refer to the relevant application form);
 - d. any other documentation so indicated on the application form.

Unless otherwise requested by the EPA, uncertified copies of documents are accepted.
3. If you hold a licence from another State of Australia and wish to lodge a mutual recognition notice, you may do so by lodging a written notice to the EPA in accordance with section 19 of the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992*⁵.

³ https://www.elf.sa.gov.au/Public/Content/NewApplication.aspx?type=GENI_RadiationApplication

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2017C00372>

Further information

Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607
Adelaide SA 5001
Tel: (08) 8204 2004
Freecall: 1800 623 445 (country)
Website: <https://www.epa.sa.gov.au>

Radiation Protection Branch
Tel: (08) 8463 7826
Fax: (08) 8124 4671
Email: radiationprotection@sa.gov.au
