

FAQ – Radiation Safety at APS during Commissioning

What restrictions will be in place for radiation safety during commissioning?



A specific period, scheduled for two weeks, is set aside near the beginning of commissioning to perform shielding validation. During this time frame, only individuals authorized by radiation protection and staff of the main control room will be permitted interior to the inner walkway of the experimental hall. Communications will be made prior to this restricted access phase and upon its completion. Additional local restrictions, including

in some first optical enclosures (FOEs), may be in place following the validation based on radiation survey results.

What postings may I encounter at APS during commissioning?

The experiment hall will be posted as a Controlled Area with training and dosimetry required.

Areas where radioactive sources are stored, including in some experiment enclosures and LOMs, will be posted as Radioactive Material Areas.

Local areas with higher levels of radiation losses will be posted as Radiation Areas and require any individual to be briefed on the appropriate Radiation Work Permit by radiological protection staff before entering.

During initial studies, the inner area of the experimental hall will be posted as a Radiation Area, and some areas may be posted as High Radiation Areas. Additional radiation protection controls are required for these areas and require a separate Radiation Work Permit briefing.

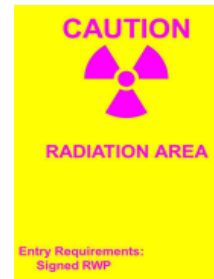
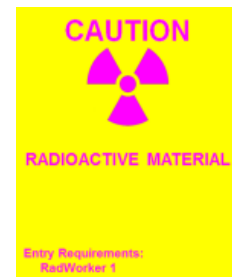
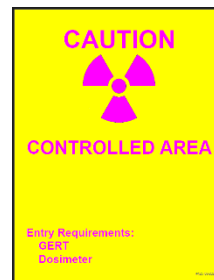
Obey all signs and postings, and if you are unsure if you can enter an area, ask before entering.

What if I need access to a restricted area?

Please contact your management to discuss access during restricted periods. These requests will need to be elevated to management for consideration.

When do I need to wear my dosimeter?

Starting March 11th, the entirety of the experiment hall will be posted as a Controlled Area at each access point into the hall. At that time, individuals entering the experiment hall will need to have completed GERT training and wear their dosimeter. Your dosimeter must not leave site, and must be placed on a rack where you are able to pick it back up before entering the experiment hall. For additional information regarding dosimetry, including issuance, please review the previous [dosimetry FAQs](#).



I heard we can request escorted access for short-term visits. Whom should I contact and what limitations are there?

Individuals may request escorted access through this link: [Escorted Access](#). This form must be completed and approved by the Area Health Physicist, and the escort will be required to pick up an electronic dosimeter prior to escorting individuals into Controlled Areas. Please read the top portion of the form for more information.

What should I do if I see a colleague not wearing a dosimeter in a controlled area?

In the same way that you would encourage someone to wear the proper PPE in a construction zone, you should encourage your co-worker to obtain the proper training and wear their dosimeter. Radiological protection personnel should also be notified so that we can estimate the dose received and validate no additional actions are needed.

What do I have to move?

Crates, unsecured beamline piping, carts, toolboxes – these items and many others are currently impeding access to the storage ring wall. During commissioning, radiation protection personnel will need to survey the walls of the storage ring – this includes the mezzanine, utility corridor, FOEs and remainder of the storage ring wall. Any non-permanent equipment needs to be moved away from the walls to allow access to these areas. Additionally, any materials blocking access to our installed radiation monitoring system will need to be moved to allow us to maintain those devices during this critical step.

What areas do radiological protection staff need access to?

We need to be able to access all the areas surrounding the storage ring wall. This means if there are locked cages or rooms, we will need to have the ability to access these during the commissioning period. We have a secure keybox accessible only to health physics personnel that we can store access keys in. If there are safety hazards in your area that could impact our ability to access the area, please contact us to determine the appropriate mitigations.

I have a package that will now come during the restricted period – what should I do?

We are working with building managers to hold packages coming to the truck locks during this period. If a package is delivered to a truck lock, it will remain in that area until personnel retrieve it at a later date.

I found a Radiation Safety tag on the floor, what should I do?

Radiation Safety System tags are used to mark equipment and components that are important to radiation safety and validated to be in place prior to operation. If you find a loose tag, please contact your local floor coordinator, do not attempt to place the tag back on a component yourself.

Can I eat and drink in posted areas?

Eating and drinking is permitted in Controlled Areas only – not Radioactive Material Areas, Radiation Areas, High Radiation Areas or any other radiological areas, and only when no other safety hazards are present that would preclude eating and drinking.

What do we have to do for beamline commissioning?

For our personnel to be able to survey your enclosures when you've completed all required pre-start activities, we again have to have access to surfaces of the enclosure – including walls and accessible roofs. This means moving materials away from the walls unless they are permanently installed, similar to the storage ring walls. After beamline commissioning is complete, individuals will have access to all areas that have been surveyed.

What should I do if I have a question on radiation safety?

Contact us!

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