

Office of Radiological Health

X-RAY BULLETIN

ORH-741: Access to Regulations and Forms, Quality Management Program Reissued Dec. 5, 2018

The Office of Radiological Health's Radiation Protection Regulations may be obtained by visiting the Virginia Department of Health's website at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/radiological-health/radiological-health/x-ray-machine-program/regulations/> and accessing the link "12VAC5-481". If you find errors in the regulations, please submit written comments so they may be reviewed.

Certain forms have been revised: Notice to Employees, Radiation Safety Procedures, Operators List, and List of Private Inspectors. They are available on the VDH website at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/radiological-health/radiological-health/x-ray-machine-program/x-ray-forms/>.

Facilities should be aware of a fundamental change in the concept of a Quality Management Program. This requires individuals working with radiographic equipment to be aware of radiographic technique factors during patient examinations as well as the imaging system itself. A basic practice of radiologic technology is to keep occupational and patient dose as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA). ALARA can be achieved by one or more of the following factors:

1. Using proper radiographic technique to keep patient dose low; yet, maintain good image quality.
2. Using the correct film/screen combination.
3. Implementing proper processor maintenance which includes; changing chemicals, cleaning the processor, and checking temperature.

The facility shall have the responsibility for directing the operation of the x-ray systems under their administrative control. This includes the requirement that an appropriate technique chart (written or electronic) be available for the technologist's use. This should be reviewed by your inspector as part of the inspection process. As more equipment is being installed with solid state image receptors (full field digital and computed radiography) facilities should adjust their technique factors to accommodate the lower radiation exposures while maintaining good diagnostic image quality.
