



COMPLETE RADIOLOGICAL SERVICES

## **ATTENTION USERS OF HANDHELD XRF DEVICES**

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Radiation Protection (PADEP/ BRP) has recently issued a bulletin entitled "Requirements When Using Handheld Analytical X-Ray Equipment".

This document describes the specific requirements for alloy analyzers that do not include a safety device which either prevents the entry of any portion of an individual's body into the primary X-ray beam path, or causes the beam to be terminated or interrupted upon entry into the path.

Examples of devices that do not include this safety feature are as follows:

- Thermo Fisher Handheld X-ray Analyzers
- Niton Handheld X-ray Analyzers
- InnoveX Handheld X-ray Analyzers
- Metorex Handheld X-ray Analyzers

In order to fulfill the requirements of PADEP regulations, a registrant must apply to the Department for an exemption from the requirement for a safety device. In addition since these devices are by definition *open-beam*, all users must be provided with a personal dosimeter that monitors

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exposure to the hand or wrist. **Compliance with these regulations shall be reviewed during on-site inspections.**

The application for an exemption shall include the following:

- (1) A description of the various safety devices that have been evaluated.
- (2) The reason each of these safety devices cannot be used.
- (3) A description of the alternative methods that will be employed to minimize the possibility of an accidental exposure, including procedures to assure, that operators and others in the area will be informed of the absence of safety devices.

Applied Health Physics, Inc. has discussed this situation with the PADEP/ BRP staff in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg and has developed a plan of action to assist our customers.

Anyone interested in having the AHP staff assist in addressing this issue should contact Ellen Teprag at 800-332-6648 or by email [eteprag.ahp@comcast.net](mailto:eteprag.ahp@comcast.net).

Best regards,

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