Information about Transport Licences

The Radiation Safety Act 1999 requires all individuals transporting radioactive substances by road, water, rail or air in the Queensland jurisdiction to hold a transport licence. Transport licences are granted by the Director-General of the Department of Health (chief executive).

All transport licences are subject to the condition that the licensee complies with the ARPANSA Code of Practice for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material 2008 (transport code). Amongst other things, this means that all licensees are required to transport radioactive substances in compliance with their radiation protection programme.

**Transport by road**

Only an individual may hold a licence to transport radioactive substances by road. This licensed individual is the person in charge of the vehicle.

A person who wishes to obtain a transport licence must, in the person’s application, detail:
- how he or she wishes to transport the radioactive substance
- the amount of radioactive substance to be transported at a time
- details demonstrating the applicant’s competency in relation to the handling, packaging, transportation, storage and delivery of the substance.

**Transport by other than road**

A company or individual may hold a licence authorising the transport within the jurisdiction in Queensland of radioactive substances by means other than by road (i.e. air, sea or rail). If the licence is to be held by a company, the applicant will need to provide appropriate training to staff who will be involved in the transport radioactive substances. This training should include:
- a direction to refer to the transport code
- details of the responsibilities of the consignor and driver
- a direction that consignments must be checked before they are accepted for transport
- details of where and when radiation warning placards are to be placed on the vehicle
- details of the limitations on the packages which may be transported
- information on how packages must be stored while in transit
- procedures to be taken in the event of an accident or incident

The radiation protection programme for corporate applicants must contain details of this training and must be submitted for assessment along with their licence applications.
Are there any exemptions from the licensing requirements?

A transport licence is not required if a radioactive substance is transported in accordance with the transport code, and if:

1. the radioactive substance to be transported is packaged as an excepted package as defined in the transport code; or

2. the radioactive substance to be transported is in the form of a sealed radioactive substance, incorporated in a sealed source apparatus, and transported by a person who is licensed to use the apparatus to carry out one of the following radiation practices:
   (a) borehole logging
   (b) density-gauging or moisture-gauging, for geo-technical purposes
   (c) industrial radiography.

Term of Transport Licence

A transport licence may have a term of one, two or three years. Under the Radiation Safety Act 1999, applications for renewal of licences must be made prior to the expiry of a current licence.

Licensees are required to have and comply with a Radiation Protection Programme for the Transport of Radioactive Materials. The department has prepared such a programme which a large number of licensees have elected to use. A copy of this programme may be found at: www.health.qld.gov.au/radiationhealth

Enquiries

For further information, please contact the Radiation Health, Health Protection Unit of the Department of Health. The contact details for Radiation Health are:

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<td>Radiation Health</td>
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<td>Health Protection Unit</td>
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<td>15 Butterfield Street</td>
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<td>07 3328 9622</td>
<td><a href="mailto:radiation_health@health.qld.gov.au">radiation_health@health.qld.gov.au</a></td>
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