

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Helpful information about working with dosimeter badges.

Dosimeter badges are an important part of keeping staff members safe as they provide radiation-based patient care. While we've tried to make it easy and inexpensive for practices to use these safety tools, we've noticed several customer questions that regularly arise. Below are answers to the questions we hear the most. If you need further help, reach out to your representative or call 800.869.2510.

Q. What is MyRadCare and how can I benefit from it?

A. MyRadCare is RDC's online account management software program. It is available free of charge to all active RDC customers. It provides RDC customers a safe and convenient tool to manage their dosimetry account at any time, from any computer with access to the internet.

With MyRadCare online access customers can:

- View and print dose reports on demand
- Create NRC Form 5 reports in minutes
- Add, delete and change wearers
- Schedule orders for new wearers
- Order replacements for lost or damaged badges
- Receive email notification of shipments, late badges, invoices and published reports
- View when badges are issued and returned
- Track shipments

Q. Who is required to be monitored?

A. All employees who may receive 500 mrem in one year must be badged. In addition, all declared pregnant workers must be monitored.

Q. What do I do if I lose my badge?

A. Your account will be charged a late fee for each badge not returned within 60 days of the end of the wear period. If the badge is found and returned after that 60-day period has ended, a partial credit will be issued to your account.

Q. Can more than one person share a badge?

A. No. RDC's TLD dosimeter badges are meant for use by one individual at a time so that the dose associated with that badge is assigned to that one individual's records. If multiple individuals use one badge, it is not possible to separate out what dose belongs to each individual, therefore making the reading invalid for the intended user of the badge.

Q. If my dosimeter badge was left inside a car during high outside temperatures, will the dose on my badge be higher or lower?

A. If the dose is affected at all, the dose will be lower because heat is used to detect/extract the energy from the TLD dosimeter badge.

Q. Are my dosimetry reports reviewed and will I be contacted if my dose level is high?

A. Yes, any report containing results that are outside of acceptable limits will be reviewed and the customer will be notified immediately so that appropriate actions can be taken.

Q. When and how do I get my dose report?

A. Returned TLD dosimeter badges are read, and reports are available online within 10 business days of receipt of the badges. An email will be sent to you when your reports are available for viewing, downloading and printing.

Q. Do we need dosimeter badges if we are using a digital X-ray machine?

A. Yes. Digital machines do not require film, but still produce the same risk of exposure as any other X-ray machine.

Q. How do I return badges?

A. Please return badges in the box or pre-addressed envelope provided in your regular shipments. If you don't have the box or envelope, you can use any padded envelope and any box if needed. Badges should be returned to:

Radiation Detection Company
3527 Snead Drive
Georgetown, TX 78626

Please note that shipments are considered packages/parcels, not letters or large envelopes. Packages with insufficient postage may be delayed by the carrier, resulting in unreturned dosimeter fees if received after the return period.

Q. How do I return my badges if I'm enrolled in the EasyReturns pre-paid shipping label program?

A. The UPS EasyReturns shipping label will be included with the pre-addressed envelope provided in your regular shipments. Put your badges in the return envelope, apply the return label to the packaging, seal and mail back.

If you receive a box, the EasyReturns shipping label will be placed at the bottom of the box. Feel free to reuse the box your badges were shipped in; remove label from backing and adhere to the largest side of the package.

Ship your package with UPS:

1. UPS Ground: Drop off at any UPS location or schedule a UPS pickup at your location. Go to UPS – Shipping Locations to find a drop-off location near you or visit UPS – Schedule A Pickup.
2. UPS Mail Innovations: Tender your package to any United States Postal Service location. Postal locations include your own mailbox, your local post office, postal collection boxes, or any other United States Postal Service collection point. You may also schedule a free postal carrier pickup at carrierpickup.usps.com.

If UPS is not available in your area, please take one of the actions below:

1. Place it in your mailbox or USPS collection box.
2. Drop it off at any post office. To find the post office closest to you, call 1.800.ASK.USPS or visit usps.com and click on Locate a Post Office.
3. Give it to your USPS carrier.
4. Request a pickup for the next day from your USPS carrier or at usps.com/pickup.

Q. Do pregnant workers wear the same badge as other workers?

A. Typically, pregnant workers wear the normal body badge as well as a fetal dosimeter badge during pregnancy.

Q. How should the fetal badge be worn?

A. A fetal dosimeter badge should be worn directly over the fetal area in order to receive the most accurate reading on your dose report.

Q. Do I need a fetal monitor for pregnant workers in addition to a dosimeter badge?

A. Pregnant employees who work with radiation and who have declared their pregnancy in writing to the Radiation Safety Office must be assigned a fetal monitor and may not exceed 500 mrem for the entire gestational period. The badge should be worn close to the embryo/fetus to obtain the most accurate dose.

Q. Where should I place an area monitor?

- A. If you are monitoring an occupational dose to employees in a room where the source is located, or a room near a source that radiation could potentially reach, an Area TLD Dosimeter Monitor should be placed at the highest exposure level where an employee may be working. Never place an Area Monitor on top of a source, or in a high radiation area that would not reflect occupational exposure.

It is the responsibility of the company to prove that the public is not being exposed to more than 100 mrem/year from outside a room/building. If you are monitoring potential exposure to the public, the Area Monitor should be placed on the outside of the room at the highest exposure level where employees/people are walking, sitting or may have access.

Q. How does the control badge work?

- A. The control badge is used to monitor the non-occupational dose that the personnel badge was exposed to. This includes background and other sources of radiation not a part of the workplace radiation exposure. The control badge should be stored in a location away from the radiation source at your facility. Break rooms or receptionist areas are good examples of areas that are typically appropriate.

Q. I received a dose on my control badge. What does that mean?

- A. It is normal to receive a dose on the control TLD dosimeter. It represents the background and transit dose received on the badge from the time it left our facility and until it was returned. The dose recorded on a control dosimeter is usually low, and relatively constant from report to report. A control dosimeter will usually record a small dose (5-20 mrem per month).

More details at: www.pattersonvet.com/services/dosimetry-monitoring

