

A-0536

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§482.26(b)(1) - Proper safety precautions must be maintained against radiation hazards. This includes adequate shielding for patients, personnel, and facilities, as well as appropriate storage, use and disposal of radioactive materials.

Interpretive Guidelines §482.26(b)(1)

The hospital must adopt and implement written policies and procedures to ensure safety from radiation hazards. The policies and procedures must include, but are not limited to, consideration of the following:

- Clear and easily recognizable signage identifying hazardous radiation areas;
- Limitations on access to areas containing radiologic services equipment.
- Appropriate use of shielding, including:
 - Types of personal protective shielding (e.g., lead aprons, lead gloves, protective eyewear, thyroid shields, portable individualized lead panels, stationary barriers) to be used, under what circumstances, for patients, including high-risk patients as identified in radiologic services policies and procedures, patient family members or support persons who may be needed to be with the patient during a study or procedure, and hospital personnel;
 - Lead and concrete barriers built into the walls and other structures of the imaging areas;
- Identification and use of appropriate containers to be used for various radioactive materials, if applicable, when stored, in transport between locations within the hospital, in use, and during/after disposal.

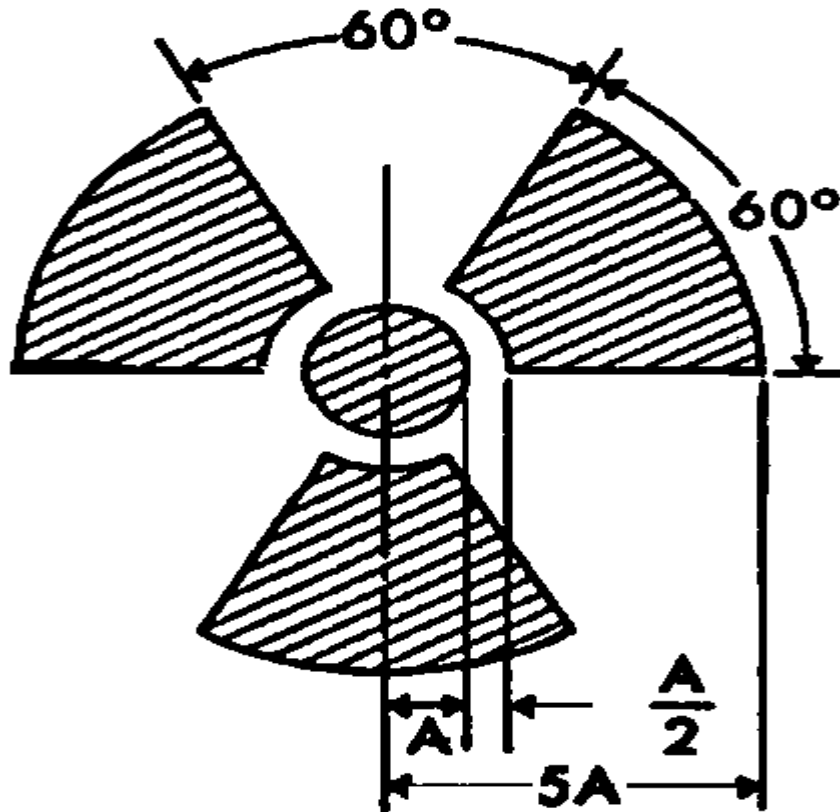
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The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) has requirements for protecting hospital staff from radiation exposure, some of which are summarized below:

- “For information about exposure limits see: 29 CFR 1910.1096, Ionizing Radiation Standard. The standard also requires:
 - Each radiation area shall be conspicuously posted with a sign or signs bearing the radiation caution symbol, with the wording ‘Caution Radiation Area’ [29 CFR 1910.1096(e)(2)]”

RADIATION SYMBOL

1. Cross-hatched area is to be magenta or purple.
2. Background is to be yellow.



This document also discusses other tools to prevent radiation exposure.

See:

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/clinical/radiology/radiology.html#Radiation>

As a reminder, although hospitals are required to comply with applicable OSHA requirements, surveyors conducting surveys on behalf of CMS do not interpret or assess compliance with the requirements of OSHA or other Federal Agencies. Surveyors do assess compliance with Medicare requirements that may overlap or duplicate OSHA requirements.

Survey Procedures §482.26(b)(1)

- Verify that personal shielding, supplies and equipment are properly maintained and routinely inspected by the hospital.
- Determine if the proper shielding is applied to a patient who is undergoing a procedure using ionizing radiation.
- Determine if staff members appropriately extricate themselves from the immediate exposure field while performing a study or procedure using ionizing radiation.
- Determine if staff wear shielding as appropriate, per hospital policy.
- Verify that any hazardous radiation materials are clearly labeled, properly stored in a safe manner in the requisite containers, and disposed of in the appropriate manner.