



## Operators of Radioscopic (Fluoroscopic) Equipment

It is the responsibility of the owner of x-ray equipment to ensure that the equipment meets all applicable radiation safety standards and guidelines and is operated by qualified users. [The Medical Imaging Division of the Diagnostic Accreditation Program of British Columbia](#) requires adherence to the guidelines contained in [Health Canada Safety Code - 35](#), as well as rules made under the *Medical Practitioner Act, Part XVI - Diagnostic Services and Facilities*. The Workers' Compensation Board has adopted Safety Code 20A for the protection of workers, in Section 7.32 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, which came into effect on April 15, 1998. In these codes, a "must" statement is mandatory under *WorkSafeBC Regulations*.

The following guidelines from Safety Code 35 identify those who may operate radioscopic (fluoroscopic) equipment:

### A. Sec 3.1

- (a) "There **must** be at least one person designated by the owner as the responsible user to undertake responsibility for:
  - ii) ensuring that the equipment is used and maintained only by competent personnel;
  - iii) ensuring that the equipment is used correctly;
  - iv) establishing safe operating procedures for the equipment and ensuring that operating staff are adequately instructed in them."

### B. Sec 3.2 X-ray Equipment Operators

"All operators should be certified according to a recognized standard, such as that of the CAMRT, and must possess qualifications required by any relevant Federal and Provincial regulations and statues."

#### Sec 3.2.3

"All operators **must** have a thorough understanding of their profession, of safe working methods and of special techniques."

### C. Sec 8.1 General Recommendations

12) "X-ray equipment **must** only be operated by, or under the direct supervision of, qualified individuals." (See Sec 3.2 and 3.2.3 above)

### D. Sec 9.1.10

"Medical practitioners should not operate x-ray equipment or be responsible for the use of such equipment."

### E. Sec 9.5.3(2)

"Fluoroscopy **must** only be carried out by, or under immediate supervision of, a radiologist or physician properly trained in fluoroscopic procedures."

### Summary:

The above guidelines allow only individuals who have received formal training on the theory, proper operation, and radiation protection associated with the operation of radioscopic (fluoroscopic) equipment to operate these equipment.

### For further information see:

- Health Canada's Safety Code 35, "*Radiation Protection in Radiology - Large Facilities*"
- WorkSafeBC, *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, BC Regulation 296/97, General Hazard Requirements*

### Contacts:

- Diagnostic Accreditation Program of British Columbia
- WorkSafeBC
- Radiation Protection Services, BC Centre for Disease Control

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