

Dosimeter Information Sheet

Who needs to wear a dosimeter at LBNL?

Individuals at LBNL are required to wear a dosimeter when performing work under a Radiological Work Authorization (RWA) or Work Planning and Control (WPC) Activity requiring monitoring with external dosimetry. The RWA or WPC will specify when and where dosimetry must be worn. If you are not performing work under an RWA or WPC that specifically requires external dosimetry, you are not required to wear a dosimeter.

How do I obtain a dosimeter? How soon will I get it?

To request a new or replacement dosimeter, please submit a ticket to the [Dosimetry Help Desk](#). You may also email us at dosimetry@lbl.gov or visit us in Building 75, Room 113.

Most dosimeter requests are processed within 1 to 2 business days. Same-day rush requests are possible, but not guaranteed.

What are my responsibilities once I've been issued a dosimeter?

Dosimeters must be worn at LBNL when required by an RWA or WPC or when entering areas where dosimeters are required to be worn. LBNL dosimeters must not be worn when working at facilities other than LBNL.

Individuals issued dosimetry must maintain possession of their dosimeter(s), store them on site at LBNL, and make them available for exchange at the required frequency.

Dosimeters must not be removed from the main site or off-site work location, except as needed to travel between authorized LBNL work locations. Do not take dosimetry home, off-site to non-work locations (e.g., doctor or dentist appointments), on travel, or put it through X-ray scanners or any other place that may record non-occupational exposure.

Individuals must immediately notify the Dosimetry Office if a dosimeter is lost, damaged, taken on a flight, exposed to non-occupational X-rays (e.g., baggage screening systems or medical X-rays), or worn following a medical procedure that uses radioactive isotopes. When these events occur, a member of the Radiation Protection Group will perform a dose investigation to document the occurrence and correctly account for any occupational radiation exposure during the period of dosimeter use.

Individuals who have repeat issues meeting these responsibilities may be removed from the dosimetry monitoring program, resulting in work restrictions for tasks requiring dosimetry. Reinstatement in the dosimetry monitoring program is at the discretion of the Radiological Control Manager.

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Does wearing a dosimeter make me qualified to work with radioactive material or radiation-producing devices?

No. Before working with radioactive material or radiation-producing devices, contact your supervision to ensure you have met all training requirements associated with your work.

How do I wear my dosimeter(s)?

Whole-body dosimeters are worn on the chest with the label facing outward. Extremity rings are worn on the right and left hands, as marked, with the label pointing toward the source of radiation (usually toward the palms).

Where do I store my dosimeter?

Dosimeters must be stored on site at LBNL away from sources of radiation. If your work area has a dosimetry board, store the dosimeter on the board.

How are dosimeter results distributed?

You may review your dosimeter results at any time at rems.lbl.gov. Annual dose reports are also provided via LBNL email or regular postal mail, usually in May.

What types of radiation are LBNL dosimeters designed to measure?

All LBNL dosimeters monitor gamma, X-ray, and beta radiation. Neutron radiation monitoring is also available when required by your RWA and WPC.

How do I exchange my dosimeter?

In most cases, whole-body dosimeters are exchanged every 6 months in January and July, and extremity dosimeters are exchanged every 3 months in January, April, July, and October. New dosimeters are posted on dosimeter boards (when available), provided to a distributor in your work group, or brought directly to your office.

You must return your dosimeter within 30 days of its due date. Dosimeters not returned within 60 days may be subject to further investigation. If you will be unavailable during the exchange period, please leave your dosimeter with your supervisor or drop it off early with the Dosimetry Office in Building 75, Room 113.

What if I'm leaving LBNL or no longer need my dosimeter?

Please submit a ticket to the [Dosimetry Help Desk](#) and we will coordinate collection of your dosimeter. You may also email us at dosimetry@lbl.gov or visit us in Building 75, Room 113. In an urgent situation, please leave your dosimeter with your supervisor.

How do I contact the Dosimetry Office with more questions?

You may contact the Dosimetry Office at any time by submitting a ticket to the [Dosimetry Help Desk](#). You may also email us at dosimetry@lbl.gov or visit us in Building 75, Room 113.