



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
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INFORMATION BULLETIN 2012-04

To: Dental X-Ray Machine Registrants

From: David M. Howe, Section Manager 
Radiation Protection Services

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**ARIBEX-Manufactured
HAND-HELD DENTAL X-RAY UNIT**

**REVISED EXEMPTION
FOR GENERAL DENTISTRY**

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DENTAL CARE AT LOCATIONS FOR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

Effective immediately, Radiation Protection Services (RPS) will begin granting new exemption conditions for dental practitioners (e.g. those who prescribe and/or take dental X-rays as permitted by Board of Dentistry Oregon Revised Statute Chapters 679 and 680, and Administrative Rule Chapter 818) who use the Aribex-manufactured hand-held dental X-ray device. By meeting the "Revised Exemption Conditions" listed below, registrant operators will ultimately not be required to wear personal dosimetry and will be exempt from wearing a protective whole body apron and thyroid collar when using the Aribex Hand-held Dental X-Ray Device.

Background

Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 333-106-0325(9)(b) requires that hand-held dental X-ray devices only be used (by dental practitioners) when it is impractical to transfer a patient to a stationary X-ray installation per OAR 333-106-0045(3). Dental practitioners are those who prescribe and/or take dental X-rays as permitted by Board of Dentistry Oregon Revised Statute Chapters 679 and 680, and Administrative Rule Chapter 818.

However, as a result of completing a formal evaluation, RPS began granting individual exemptions on July 29, 2011 to allow RPS approved hand-held dental X-ray devices for general dentistry purposes, or at dental care locations providing care for underserved populations or in places lacking access to dental services, if the dental services are provided for greater than (7) days per year. Presently, the Aribex hand-held dental X-ray device is the only RPS-approved unit for use in Oregon.

Based upon a more recent RPS review, the July 29, 2011 Aribex exemption conditions have been modified. By adhering to the Revised Exemption Conditions listed below, registrant operators will ultimately not be required to wear personal dosimetry and will be exempt from wearing a protective whole body apron and thyroid collar when using the Aribex Hand-Held Dental X-Ray unit.

Revised Exemption Conditions for Aribex-manufactured hand-held dental X-ray unit:

In order to qualify for the revised exemption, the following conditions must be met by the registrant, including registering the unit with RPS and completing an RPS "Request for Hand-held Dental Device X-Ray Exemption" [OAR 333-106-0325(9)(b)] form. See the Request for Exemption form for a more detailed list.

1. Comply with all dental and hand-held dental device Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs), including Chapter 333, except those for which the exemption is granted.
2. For the first 12 months from the date of first use after the exemption is granted, each operator shall wear a whole body apron and thyroid collar of .25 mm lead equivalent, and personal dosimetry (whole body and ring). [Note: Registrants will receive credit for any time earned from their original exemption toward the 12-month requirement of these Revised Exemption Conditions].
3. RPS shall conduct an annual inspection to confirm proper use of dosimetry and proper use of device by operators. If all operator dosimeter levels are 10% or less than the yearly allowed occupational dose limit [per OAR 333-120-0210(1)(a)], then dosimetry may be discontinued and the operators will be exempted from wearing the whole body apron and thyroid collar.
4. After successfully completing the first annual inspection, the registrant will not be required to renew the exemption, but will be required to post a safety worker safety notice (provided by RPS) regarding proper use of the hand-held device.
5. If, during a second annual inspection, all operators can demonstrate proper use of the device, inspections will revert to RPS' routine inspection cycle (currently once every three years).
6. If, during the second annual inspection, an operator is not demonstrating proper use of the device, the registrant shall be required to have all operators wear dosimetry (whole body and ring) and a whole body apron and thyroid collar as appropriate, and the registrant will be inspected annually until all operators demonstrate proper use of the device.

After receipt of a "Request for Hand-held Dental X-ray Exemption" form (see attached), RPS shall inform each registrant, in writing, whether the registrant qualifies for the exemption.

Be advised that failure to follow the exemption conditions and OARs may result in revocation of the exemption and/or civil penalties, per Oregon Revised Statutes 453.761 and 453.771. RPS will take enforcement action if a situation presents an imminent threat to patient and/or operator safety.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Todd Carpenter, RPS Licensing Manager, at 971-673-0500 or Todd.S.Carpenter@state.or.us, or go to www.healthoregon.org/rps