



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services
Public Health Division
Environmental Public Health
Radiation Protection Services
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 640
Portland, OR 97232-2162
Voice 971-673-0490
FAX 971-673-0553
TTY 971-673-0372

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INFORMATION BULLETIN 2009-07

To: Fixed Gauge Licensees
From: Todd S. Carpenter
Radiation Protection Services Section



Subject: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received numerous reports of fixed gauge shutter closure failures occurring during shutter closure checks performed by the licensee.

Investigations of the circumstances surrounding these events indicate several contributing factors:

1. Devices were typically operating in harsh environments with the presence of grit, dust and other foreign materials which can get into the shutter operating mechanism.
2. Previous shutter checks performed prior to the reported failure may have indicated "sticking" or "binding" of the shutter during closure although the licensee was eventually able to get the shutter closed and reopened.
3. Periodic shutter mechanism checks were not always conducted by licensees as required resulting in the buildup of foreign material or corrosion within the device and a stuck or frozen shutter which could not be closed.

At no time should the licensee attempt to apply additional force or pressure to the closure mechanism by other mechanical means. These methods are prohibited and may cause damage to the operating handle. The requirement for fixed gauge licensees to conduct testing can be found in Oregon Administrative Rule 333-102-0115.

Licensees should promptly contact the manufacturer or other licensed service provider for guidance on necessary maintenance and repair. Licensees must notify the Department as outlined in OAR 333-102-0115(4)(e) within 30 days of an incident.

This information notice requires no specific licensee action or response. If you have any questions, please contact my office at (971) 673-0500.

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