

## 2 Risk Assessments

### Scope

1 A suitable and sufficient risk assessment (RA) is required for all activities involving ionising radiation or radioactive material. A suitable and sufficient radiation risk assessment (RRA) is required for any new (or unique) activity involving work with ionising radiation.

### Legal Requirements

2 In addition to the general requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, the following specific legislation applies: Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17), regulation 8 (applies directly).

### Duties

3 Duties as detailed in Chapter 39 apply.

### Risk Assessment (RA)

4 The general requirement to have a risk assessment that covers all workplace hazards as required by MHSWR 99 is dealt with in JSP 375, Volume 1, Chapter 8. A suitable and sufficient risk assessment for work involving ionising radiation is required under IRR17. In general, a risk assessment is to:

- a. identify the hazards and how they arise;
- b. investigate how the hazards arise and impact those affected;
- c. explain how the risks are managed; and
- d. undergo a review at least annually or when there are material changes.

5 Summary Risk Assessments for specific items of equipment containing radiation sources are available from your RPA focal point.

### Radiation Risk Assessment (RRA)

6 The requirement for a radiation risk assessment complements the requirement for a risk assessment as required by MHSWR 99. IRR17 requires that any new activity involving work with ionising radiation or radioactive material must not begin until a radiation risk assessment has been completed. The main purpose of the radiation risk assessment is for the Commanding Officer / Head of Establishment (CO / HoE) to identify the measures needed to restrict the exposure of employees and other persons. Both routine exposure, and hazards with the potential to cause a radiation accident, must be considered and evaluated.

7 The content and considerations for a radiation risk assessment are detailed in IRR17 regulation 8.

8 The radiation risk assessment must be suitable and sufficient for the work activity, so for many activities (where the hazard may be limited), the radiation risk assessment need not be complex. An RPA is to be consulted on the matters to be considered when conducting a radiation risk assessment for assistance in the preparation of meeting the requirements of IRR17 regulation 8.

9 A radiation risk assessment will satisfy the requirements of a risk assessment detailed in Chapter 39 of JSP 375 as far as protection from ionising radiation is concerned. However, the radiation protection aspects of the work activity are not to be considered in isolation from other health and safety considerations, as one may impact on the other.

### **Actions Arising from a Radiation Risk Assessment**

10 Units and establishments are to introduce safety measures to eliminate or minimise the risk, as identified in the radiation risk assessment, and provide information, instruction and formal training as appropriate to reduce radiation exposure.

11 These safety measures can include written local arrangements (Local Rules or local orders), what training is required for staff to carry out the work safely and what, if any, PPE is required.

12 Units and establishments are also to identify processes in which, as a consequence of an accident or incident:

a. any person may receive a radiation overexposure as a result of a single exposure (see Chapters 6 and 14); or

b. a new controlled area (see Chapter 4) would be required to restrict access to high dose rate or contaminated areas.

### **Review of Risk Assessments Including Radiation Risk Assessments**

13 All risk assessments and radiation risk assessments shall be reviewed by a unit or establishment at least annually. However, a more frequent review may be necessary, dependent on the nature of the work and the degree of risk. Additionally, the risk assessment is to be reviewed where:

a. there is reason to suspect that the assessment is no longer valid (e.g. due to equipment or process modifications); and

b. there has been a change in the work to which the assessment relates.

### **Records**

14 Risk assessments should be live documents that are held locally and must be made available to all individuals involved in the work to which they refer, as well as to auditors and regulators when required. If a new assessment is required, the old risk assessment is to be retained for a minimum period of 2 years from the date of the new assessment (see Volume 1, Chapter 3 Record Keeping).