

Date: February 7, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-02-002

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region I staff on this date.

**Facility**

S.D. Richman Sons, Inc.  
2435 Wheatsheaf Lane  
Philadelphia, PA 19137-1097

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

☐ Notification of Unusual Event  
☐ Alert  
☐ Site Area Emergency  
☐ General Emergency  
☒ Not Applicable

Docket No.: 99990001

License No.: General Licensee

**SUBJECT: UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSAL OF THICKNESS-DENSITY GAUGE**

On February 5, 2001, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania notified NRC, Region I, that S. D. Richman Sons, Inc., operators of a scrap metal facility in Philadelphia, PA, were in receipt of a thickness-density gauge (serial No. 4193) manufactured by Indev Gauging Systems of Loves Park, IL, and containing 190 millicuries (mCi) of krypton-85. This gauge had caused radiation monitoring devices to alarm at a steel mill in New Jersey and was subsequently returned to S.D. Richman Sons. Indev Gauging Systems informed the NRC that Aldan Rubber Co. of Philadelphia, was authorized to possess this gauge under a general license issued pursuant to 10 CFR Part 31.5. According to the NRC General License database, other devices authorized for possession by Aldan Rubber include another gauge (Taylor Instruments, Model no. YM-KR-70 containing 239 mCi of krypton-85) and three tritium exit signs (Brandhurst, Inc., Model Safety 10) each containing 21 curies.

NRC Region I inspectors were dispatched to the Richman Sons and Aldan Rubber facilities and verified that the recovered gauge at Richman Sons remains safely locked and stored and presents no hazard to members of the public in that configuration. The Aldan Rubber facility was found dismantled and no other devices could be identified by the inspectors. Region I will continue efforts to contact the gauge licensee and orchestrate efforts for proper disposal of the gauge.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been notified. Region I is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

This information is current as of 3:30 p.m. on February 7, 2002.

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