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CampCo. Agrees to New License Conditions, NRC Waives Fine over Tritium Watch Violations

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and CampCo. Inc. of Los Angeles, have reached a settlement agreement to address violations of NRC requirements related to importing and distributing watches containing radioactive material. In December 2015, the NRC proposed a \$28,000 fine but has agreed to waive the fine as part of the settlement reached through the alternative dispute resolution mediation process. The NRC is issuing a [Confirmatory Order](#) to make the agreed-upon actions part of the company's license.

The NRC found the company imported watches containing the radioactive isotope tritium and distributed them to individuals and another company in violation of the NRC's import and distribution regulations. Initial distribution of tritium watches must be made under an NRC license to ensure the devices meet safety requirements, but they are exempt from regulation once they are initially distributed. Retailers and consumers do not need a license to own them.

The watches contain a small amount of tritium in glass vials. The radioactive material ionizes a luminescent coating on the inside of the vial to produce light so that the markers on the watch face and hands can be seen in low light.

CampCo. holds an NRC exempt distribution license and is authorized to distribute several models of watches containing tritium. However, the NRC found the company imported and distributed a model for which it was not authorized, violating NRC reporting requirements.

In the settlement, CampCo. agreed to a number of corrective actions, including various communications about regulatory requirements targeting consumers and manufacturers of tritium watches; stronger employee training requirements; and improvements to work processes.