

**Veterans
Administration**

In Reply Refer To: 614/115

Dr. Francis A. St. Mary
Material Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and
Material Safety
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Dr. St. Mary:

This is in reference to your letter dated March 18, 1985 and our letter dated December 31, 1984.

For I-125 users in our research labs every investigator was permitted to an amount of 10 mCi per year after the Radiation Safety Committee reviewed his application. Every research lab has a fume hood of adequate design, face velocity and performance reliability. All our research labs are using I-125 in a nonvolatile medium. These are in compliance with the NRC regulation which you stated in your letter for 100 mCi without requiring bioassays.

For I-131 which is only used in our Nuclear Medicine Service for thyroid treatment, the maximum amount used per patient at a time is 20 mCi of a nonvolatile medium. We have a maximum of two patients per quarter and we use different technicians for each case. All the preparations of the I-131 are carried out in a fume hood of adequate design, face velocity and performance reliability. This is also in compliance with the NRC regulations mentioned in your letter. At the same time we are performing routine bioassay tests for the nuclear medicine personnel involved in these I-131 activities.

We will be looking forward to your response to the amendment proposed in our letter dated October 1, 1984. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you desire any additional information.

Sincerely,

H. M. Omar
Hassan M. Omar, Ph.D.
Radiation Safety Officer

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