

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABORREVIEW GROUP -
RADIOACTIVE DEVICESDATE: 12/26/95

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COMMENTS:

Copy of my notes, "Bullets" + summary
of specific vs general license is on its way to
you, express. Rose Dill (public rep) phone # is
518/283-2223

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Current Licensing Practices for Specific and General Licenses

Except for certain exempted materials and products, no one can obtain radioactive materials in the US without a license. This can be either a specific or a general license, and there are dramatic differences between the two types of license, although the radiation sources that can be obtained under either are often quite similar.

A **Specific License** is an individual document issued after an application is submitted, reviewed and accepted. Radioactive materials that require a "Specific" license cannot be obtained unless and until the license is issued by the USNRC or a State. The license application must describe an acceptable radiation protection program and radiation safety officer. Additional information, clarification or changes in proposed procedures may also be required before a license is issued. When it is issued, the licensee is required to implement all the commitments made in the application process, as well as all regulatory requirements (e.g. leak tests, inventories, training, radiation surveys, documentation of receipt and transfer of material, etc.). The licensee will also be subject to inspections, during which compliance with all requirements will be evaluated, and must perform annual audits of its own program to self-identify and correct problems.

Finally, each "Specific" license will expire at regular intervals (3 to 5 years), and must go through a renewal process in which information is updated. Also, before such a license is terminated, all materials possessed under it must be accounted for.

A **General License** is granted in the regulations and no individual document is issued. This means that no application has to be submitted or approved before certain radioactive sources are acquired, and no radiation protection program has to be in place. The only requirements that the "General" Licensee must observe are those specified in the regulations for the particular generally licensed item or material. This information on regulatory requirements is provided by the vendor or manufacturer, who also submits quarterly reports to the USNRC and the States on all distributions of generally licensed material.

Various Agreement States have instituted additional steps to increase oversight of these licenses. These include: registration or licensing; requiring designation of a Radiation Safety Officer; limiting the general license for sources/devices to "fixed" devices (no use at temporary job sites), and allowing no installation or removal of devices by general licensees; requiring inventories at fixed intervals; some type of "inspection" (usually by mail or phone); and sometimes using "expiration dates." However, almost all States retain the basic concept that a generally licensed source or device can be obtained without any advance approval required.