



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

Memorandum To: R. O'Connell
Regional Coordination & Events Section
Operations Branch
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

From: M. Burgess *mb*
Sealed Source Safety Section
Medical, Academic, and
Commercial Use Safety Branch
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

Date: January 22, 1997

RE: Trijicon Allegation

The following information is provided to the Allegation Review Board (ARB) in response to your request for an evaluation and recommendation regarding failure types and rates of Trijicon's tritium gunsights, and closes out our input.

In a letter dated December 3, 1996, Mr. Stephen Bindon, of Trijicon, provided information concerning failure types and rates for Trijicon's tritium gunsights, in response to our October 17, 1996, request for information. He did not provide the requested information regarding Trijicon's recommended mounting procedures.

Based on the information in the letter, there is no indication of a product quality problem with regard to radiation safety. Mr. Bindon reports that 1,910,795 were distributed from 1985 to August 1996. Assuming a uniform distribution rate over 11 years results in a value of approximately 14475 light sources distributed per month. According to the letter, since September 1994, an average of 39 total light sources per month are returned for replacement. This constitutes approximately 0.269% of the total product distributed per month. Of these 39 light sources, 7 light sources per month were reported to be returned due to failures involving causes that might be linked to generic product quality. This constitutes approximately 0.048% of the light sources distributed per month. Please note that, in light of these low numbers, we did not feel that it was necessary to review the recommended mounting procedures.

Please be aware that we are still addressing Mr. Bindon's request that portions of the material submitted in his letter be held proprietary. The information listed in this memorandum does not contain data that Mr. Bindon has requested be held proprietary.