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| ONR Guidance Document  Applying for IRR17 Consent - Guidance for applicants - FAQs |



ONR Guidance Document

Applying for IRR17 Consent - Guidance for applicants - FAQs

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# Introduction

1. The Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) provide a framework for ensuring that exposures to workers and other persons to ionising radiation arising from work activities are restricted so far as is as reasonably practicable and do not exceed specified dose limits.
2. Included within this legal framework is a ‘graded approach’. This is where the degree regulatory control over practices is proportionate to the size and likelihood of radiation risks resulting from the work.
3. The graded approach aspects of IRR17 refer to:

* Regulation 5 – Notification of certain work involving ionising radiation to HSE/ONR
* Regulation 6 – Registration of certain work practices involving ionising radiation to HSE/ONR
* Regulation 7 – Consent from HSE/ONR to perform specific work practices.

1. The introduction of the graded approach in IRR17 represented a change from the previous system of notifications and prior authorisations in the previous Ionising Radiations Regulations (IRR99) and included a requirement, with corresponding flat fee, for registrations and consents. In accordance with government policy changes to the process of applying for and gaining consents were made in order to better align with the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) standards and guidance on application of the graded approach.
2. This guidance document gives answers to some frequently asked questions (FAQs) relating to the new ONR consent system.

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# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## How do I apply for a consent from ONR?

1. To gain a new consent from ONR please follow these steps:

* Email [ONRIRR17GradedApproach@onr.gov.uk](mailto:ONRIRR17GradedApproach@onr.gov.uk) stating which consent practice(s) that you would like to apply for and provide contact details of the person who will be point of contact, noting that this person may be different for different practices. This initial contact will allow us to set up the ONR/dutyholder electronic interface platform (‘WIReD’) ready for you to submit your application(s).
* Fill in the relevant Safety Assessment form(s).
* Once directed to do so, the point of contact, a properly authorised employee, submits completed Safety Assessment form(s) through ‘WIReD’.

1. If you do not have access to ONR’s WIReD system, please state this is in the initial email.

## I hold a certificate of consent for a specified practice, do I need to re-apply?

1. If you currently hold a certificate of consent from ONR for a specified practice, you do not need to re-apply. You will be contacted by ONR at some point over the next five years to invite you to submit a Safety Assessment for review; all existing consents issued under the old system will be re-assessed under the new system during this period from the 1st of April 2023. ONR will seek to agree with the employer an appropriate timescale for the submission of this Safety Assessment.

## What are the costs for obtaining consent from the ONR?

1. ONR will recover the costs for actual time spent reviewing Safety Assessments and performing site visits as well as other activities related to the issuing of a consent. This charge will be recovered using the usual ONR charging regime.

## How long will certificates issued under the new system last for?

1. ONR will review consents every five years or, if required, any time within that period.

## Will my current certificate expire?

1. If you already hold a certificate of consent for a specified practice it will not expire. When ONR review your consent activities, the old certificate will be revoked, and a new certificate will be issued.

## How do nuclear sites fill in a safety assessment for contracted radiography on their premises?

1. Some ONR dutyholders contract other companies to undertake industrial radiography on their premises and none of their own employees or equipment is used by the contractor. In this case you should highlight this in the initial email to ONR and someone will be in touch to discuss how to complete your consent application and Safety Assessment.

## What employers can expect from ONR after applying?

1. If a consent is required and you are an ONR dutyholder, a case will be created by ONR on the WIReD system where you can upload any Safety Assessments, contingency plans, local rules, etc. This will be reviewed by ONR and once this submission is suitable and sufficient an inspection of the facilities may be arranged. If the inspector is satisfied that suitable and sufficient arrangements are in place that ensure that radiation exposures from the practice are/ will be properly restricted, then a consent certificate will be issued. Consents applications which do not require further information or changes will take a maximum of three months for ONR to assess.
2. An inspection of the facilities will involve the ONR inspector performing a pre-arranged visit to the premises, or where a consent applies to multiple premises, a representative sample of the premises. The purpose is for the inspector to meet with management representatives, inspect the facilities, and be satisfied that the SA correctly describes the radiation protection arrangements in place by the employer, compliance with IRR17 is achieved, and that the arrangements are suitable and sufficient to ensure that radiation exposures from the practice are/will be properly restricted.
3. Where is the Safety Assessment template for the practice of discharge of significant amounts of radioactive material?
4. ONR will provide further guidance relating to the practice of discharging significant amounts of radioactive material with airborne or liquid effluent into the environment in due course. If you require a new consent for this practice, please email [ONRIRR17GradedApproach@onr.gov.uk](mailto:ONRIRR17GradedApproach@onr.gov.uk).

# Transport of high-activity sealed sources (HASS)

1. Work with high-activity sealed sources (HASS) requires a consent; this includes all transport of HASS within, into or out of Great Britain. All non–nuclear transport dutyholders that require consent for transport of HASS should apply to HSE.   
   All nuclear dutyholders should apply to ONR.

# Security classification of submissions

1. Applications sent through the ONR WIReD electronic system can contain information up to **Official Sensitive SNI** classification.
2. If you cannot access the ONR ‘WIReD’ interface, submissions will be handled via email which can accommodate **Official** classified information only.
3. If you have information security concerns, please email [ONRIRR17GradedApproach@onr.gov.uk](mailto:ONRIRR17GradedApproach@onr.gov.uk).