Safety Note 65

Decommissioning and clearance of laboratories

This Safety Note provides guidance to Schools on the decommissioning and clearance of laboratories prior to handing back space to Estates and Facilities (E&F), refurbishment by E&F or external contractors, or where the space is to be occupied by another group.

Responsibilities

SN65,

Where residual hazards cannot be removed these should be clearly identified in the laboratory and on the laboratory decontamination & clearance form.

*For laboratories permanently vacated and handed back to E&F - equipment such as Microbiological safety cabinets, re-circulating fume cupboards or fridges/freezers must not be left in the space without the prior agreement of E&F.

Radiological Clearance/Decommissioning Proposal

Report from	
Position	
School	
Building and room number	
Description of area	
Date of report	
Purpose of clearance	

1. History of radiation use in laboratory & survey strategy

Radioisotopes known (or reasonably suspected) to have been used in this area

Tritium ☐ Carbon 14 ☐ Phosphorus 32 or 33 ☐

	and programme to be used	
	Proposed action level	
Phosphorus 32 or 33	Direct contamination monitoring using	
	Proposed action level	
Sulphur 35	Direct contamination monitoring using	
	Proposed action level	
Iodine 125	Direct contamination monitoring using	
	Proposed action level	
Other	Direct contamination monitoring using	
	Proposed action level	

Guidance on monitoring of radiation laboratories	
Sinks and draining boards used for the disposal of aqueous radioactive waste	Sinks/drains will be flushed with copious amounts of water. The draining board, sink and plug hole will be monitored.
Sink traps from radiation sinks	Following flushing with water the sink traps will be disconnected and monitored internally using a wipe test.
Drainage	Open ends of connected pipework will be monitored. Depending on the type of isotopes used and the drainage plans further investigations may be required.
Fume hoods used for work with radioactivity	All internal work surfaces and aqueous waste disposal sinks will be monitored as above. Gaseous extract points will be monitored using wipes.
Equipment	All equipment in the room will be monitored (all external and internal surfaces) including fridges, freezers and cold rooms. Samples of freezer ice will be counted by liquid scintillation.
Benches and cupboards	A matrix of bench space will be monitored, including areas of known usage. Cupboard handles and under bench furniture will be monitored.
Floors	A matrix of the floor will be monitored.
Further points where radioactive contamination is reasonably foreseeable; e.g. handles, switches etc.	Monitored.

2. Proposed Remediation Strategy

[insert method e.g. Decon solution]

SN65,