

IRID: THE IONISING RADIATIONS INCIDENT DATABASE - AN UPDATE

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ABSTRACT

In 1996, NRPB, Health and Safety Executive, and the Environment Agency jointly established the UK Ionising Radiations Incident Database (IRID). Its objectives are:

- (i) to act as a national focus on ionising radiation incidents, primarily in the non-nuclear sector,
- (ii) through appropriate publications to provide feedback and guidance to users on preventing, or limiting the consequences of radiation accidents,
- (iii) to provide regulatory bodies and others with advisory responsibilities, with analyses of data that help in assessing priorities in resource allocation,
- (iv) to ensure all information contained is unattributable and confidential.

This paper reviews the database specifications¹ and experience of operation of IRID, provides an up-date on progress so far, outlines the first feedback publication, and examines the databases' future.

Example IRID incident: Shielding afforded by the exposure container resulted in the dose rate at the radiographers operating position dropping to background when he believed that he had wound the source back into the shielded position.



