

Frequently Asked Questions about Monthly Surveys:

What is the purpose of monthly surveys?

Monthly surveys are mandated evaluations to ensure your approved areas are free of radioactive contamination.

What is the difference between an after-use survey and the monthly survey?

The after-use surveys are to ensure your radioactive material workspace is cleaned and free of contamination after you finish using radioactive material. The monthly survey is to ensure all the rooms on your approval are clean.

Does every approval perform monthly surveys?

Yes, all Approvals in possession of radioactive material must perform a monthly survey unless their Approval has been granted a specific license condition.

When does the monthly survey have to be performed?

Monthly surveys must be performed within every calendar month in which radioactive material was possessed.

What rooms are required to be surveyed?

Every room listed on your RAM Approval must be surveyed. Monthly surveys may be limited to RAM storage areas during calendar months in which RAM was only in storage and not in use.

Who can perform a monthly survey?

Any radiation worker listed on your Approval may perform and document a monthly survey.

What should be surveyed?

- All areas where radioactive material is used should be surveyed.
- Commonly touched items (such as light switches, RAM storage area exterior surfaces, telephones, tools, equipment controls, door handles, or computer keyboards/mice)
- Commonly travelled floor areas such as (entrances or exits, floor near RAM use areas and floor areas near frequently used equipment).

What survey methods are required for the monthly survey?

Depends on what radionuclide(s) your approval is approved to have:

- Approvals with low energy beta (such as C^{14} , S^{35} and H^3) must use a liquid scintillation counter.
- Approvals with high energy beta emitters (such as P^{32}) can use a pancake probe gieger counter.
- Approvals with low energy gammas (such as I^{125} or Cr^{51}) can use a low energy gamma scintillation probe.
- Wipes surveys with a liquid scintillation counter are optional as a substitute for instruments.

What are the survey documentation requirements?

All surveys must include:

- Date survey was performed
- Initials of the surveyor
- A Background count
- Location(s) surveyed
- Results of each location
- Follow-up results if necessary

What corrective actions must be taken if a required survey is not performed?

- Perform a survey immediately in order to verify a safe work environment.
- Inform the Approval Holder or Radiation Safety Coordinator that a survey was missed
- The Approval Holder or Radiation Safety Coordinator must report the missing survey on the next Quarterly online Approval Review.

How do I know if an area is contaminated?

The action level for contamination is 50 counts per minute (cpm) above the background count rate.

What do I need to do if the action level is exceeded?

The area must be immediately decontaminated and a follow-up survey should be performed to show counts are no longer exceeding the action level.

Where do survey records have to be kept?

Survey records must be kept readily available for inspection.

How far back do our records need to go?

3 years.

How many areas or objects should be included on the survey?

There is no set limit or goal about the number of areas to be surveyed but you must ensure that all radioactive material use areas are covered.

When is the approval not required to perform monthly surveys?

Monthly surveys are not required when there is no radioactive material in their inventory and there is no waste possession for the entire calendar month.

Or

The approval has been given a special condition from the Radiation Safety Committee(s).