
10 February 2023

Modernised radiation safety legislation

New legislation and regulations governing radiation safety in South Australia come into effect tomorrow, promoting national uniformity and replacing an Act that was 40 years old.

The *Radiation Protection and Control Act 2021* and the *Radiation Protection and Control Regulations 2022* adopt international and Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) codes and standards.

Radiation provides significant benefits to Australians and is essential to industries across the medicine, science, mining and industrial sectors.

The Environment Protection Authority consulted extensively in 2022 with users of radiation about the regulations and new codes of compliance.

Licensees and industry bodies have been provided with guidance documents that outline the key changes for their sectors, as well as details of any licence conditions that might be varied to align with the new Act.

The Act and regulations support the principles of sustainable development, enabling access by South Australians to the benefits of new radiation technologies, and providing a modern, risk-based approach that focuses on the important issues and removes unnecessary administrative burdens.

The new legislation provides more robust protections for South Australians, strengthening requirements for the security of high-level radioactive sources and the transport of radioactive material. It creates new offences for causing harm, sets higher penalties and introduces the power to make orders where operators are not performing well enough.

[Guidance documents](#) for a range of sectors, including radiology, dentistry, nuclear medicine, veterinary and accredited testers, are on the EPA website.

The EPA authorises, regulates and advises on radiation and its role is to enable the safe use of, and access to, the benefits of radiation while ensuring people and the environment are protected.