

Radioisotopes on board UNOLS vessels

RVTEC

5-9 November 2012

2011 Workshop

“How can we keep the ships clean for ALL users?”

- Workshop consisted of Enhanced Isotope scientists, Natural Abundance scientists, Tech Managers, an RSO and NSF.
- Radioisotope contamination levels that affect natural abundance work are far smaller than levels regulated for Health and Safety.
- We can't standardize enhanced radioisotope operations throughout the fleet due to varying state/institutional regulations.

What can we do?

- Build awareness of the potential problem.
- Continue to monitor for contamination using Operation SWAB.
- Create Radioisotope Use Logs that document the history of radioisotope use and SWAB tests of each vessel.

How can we do this?

UNOLS Radioisotope Contamination Awareness Program

<http://www.unols.org/info/RadioisotopeUse/RadAwareness.html>

- Provides tools to help operators educate science parties to the potential problem. These include:
 - A short briefing of the potential problem
 - Presentations for Science and Crew regarding radioisotope contamination awareness
 - A checklist to guide pre-cruise shipboard discussion applicable to all users
- Discusses the SWAB monitoring program
- Introduces the Radioisotope Use Logs for the fleet

Outstanding workshop issues:

- Can we prevent the scientists from leaving an unclean ship? If so, how?
- What are the repercussions for an unclean ship?
- How are these acted upon?

Select RVTEC Survey Responses

- What is our responsibility as a tech
- Spill Response Procedures and planning
- How to manage the use of the isotope van during cruises? Spot check the wipe tests?
- Post-cruise Clean-up verification – making sure it is clean prior to the users' departure.
- Holding users responsible/repercussions for a dirty van

Discussion

Resources

- UNOLS RVSS Chapter 10 -
http://www.unols.org/publications/manuals/saf_stand/contents.htm
- UNOLS Radioisotope Awareness Program -
<http://www.unols.org/info/RadioisotopeUse/RadAwareness.html>
- Some current institution/vessel policies:
SIO – http://shipsked.ucsd.edu/Schedules/Instructions_For_Scientists/Isotopes/
WHOI - <http://ehs.who.edu/ehs/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=5>
SkiO
<http://www.skiio.usg.edu/resources/rvsavannah/downloads/cruiseplanningmanual.pdf>
OSU - www.shipops.oregonstate.edu/ops/wecoma/appendix_11.pdf