



Inspection report

Licence Holder: Department of the Environment and Energy Australian Antarctic Division (AAD)	Licence Number: S0055
Location of source(s): Mawson Station	Date/s of inspection: 15 September 2017
	Report No: R17/11071

An inspection was conducted as part of ARPANSA’s baseline inspection program. For the purposes of this inspection, the inspector did not enter the licence holder’s premises; instead the inspection was conducted using documents, photographs, and records sent by the licence holder, and further clarification via phone or email as necessary.

The purpose of the inspection was to assess compliance with the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998* (the Act), the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulations 1999 (the Regulations), and conditions of Source Licence S0055.

The scope of the inspection included an assessment of AAD Mawson Station, Antarctica performance against the Source Performance Objectives and Criteria.

Background

AAD, based in Hobart, manages and administers Australia’s interests in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, along with the sub Antarctic territories of Heard Island and McDonald Islands and their adjacent waters. The AAD leads, coordinates and delivers the Australian Antarctic Program, which is focused on conducting world-class science of national importance and global significance.

In achieving these goals at Mawson Station, AAD has used a sealed radioactive source device in the past as a research tool as required by a particular science project. Consequently, AAD is licensed under section 33 of the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998* to deal with controlled material.

Observations

The licensee has advised that there has been no Ra-226 sealed source at Mawson station since 2002. The source listed as SS5 (ARPANSA source No 2143) under AAD licence S0055 has always been owned, controlled and is currently stored at ANSTO, Sydney. The source was used at Mawson station from 1998 and was brought back to ANSTO, Sydney, together with the Mawson station radon detector in 2002 and subsequently decommissioned. This source is obsolete and is stored at ANSTO, Sydney, under the ANSTO licence S0045, SN A-355. This is the same source registered under AAD Licence S0055 source 2143 (AAD No. SS5)

E-mail correspondence from ANSTO to AAD provided as part of this e-Inspection information has confirmed this to be the case. The listing of the source under licence S0055 is therefore a duplication and needs to be removed from licence S0055 source inventory workbook. Given that effective control of the source is provided by ANSTO personnel under the ANSTO source licence (S0045), this inspection need not cover the source. Photographic evidence provided with the inspection information confirms however that the source is appropriately labelled and housed inside a shielded container.

Findings

The licence holder was found to be in compliance with the requirements of the Act, the Regulations, and licence conditions although the source inventory workbook for AAD needs to be updated to reflect the duplication of source details.