

## SAFETY PROTOCOL: Se-75

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(For assistance, please contact EHS at (402) 472-4925, or visit our web site at <http://ehs.unl.edu/>)

Use of radioactive materials requires a safety protocol be submitted to the UNL Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) for approval. This is a safety protocol. To obtain RSC approval:

- Submit an Authorization for Radioactive Material Use request for approval by the UNL RSC. Contact the UNL Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) for specific instructions.
- Agree to use this safety protocol or submit an alternative and equivalent procedure that you develop to meet your unique needs.

All radiation workers must be at least 18 years of age and have completed required radiation safety training. ***Never handle radioactive material prior to the completion of radiation safety training.***

All research protocols involving the radioactive material must be approved by the RSC.

### Physical Data

- Half-life of Se-75 = 119 days.
- Gamma-rays are the primary radiation hazard.
- Major gamma-ray energies and intensity = 121 keV (17%), 136 keV (58%), 264 keV (58%), 280 keV (25%) and 401 (11%).
- Half-value layers for shielding = 0.12 cm (lead), 0.62 cm (iron), 1.79 cm (aluminum) and 4.26 cm (water).

### Radiation Protection Procedures

1. Special equipment or procedures
  - Use transfer pipettes, spill trays and absorbent coverings to confine contamination.
  - Volatile chemical forms should be handled in a certified fume hood.
  - Use lab coats, safety glasses, and disposable gloves.
  - Replace gloves as needed.
  - Regularly monitor and promptly decontaminate gloves and work surfaces to maintain contamination and exposures As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA).
  - Select gloves appropriate for chemicals handled.
  - Do not work over open containers; as practical.

2. Shielding requirements
  - Hand and store <sup>75</sup>Se behind lead shielding
3. Surface contamination survey schedule
  - A survey meter should be used to monitor work surfaces after use.
  - A removable contamination (swipe) survey utilizing a smear and appropriate counter must be performed each month in which radioactive material is used (including sewer disposal). The RSC may require a higher contamination survey frequency depending on the amount of material in process.
  - The action limit for cleanup of removable contamination is 1000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. Any indication above this limit on a swipe survey or above two times background with a survey instrument is considered to be contamination. Any accessible area found to be contaminated above this limit shall be decontaminated.
4. Bioassay requirements
  - None routinely required.
5. Dosimetry
  - Se-75 can pose an external dose hazard.
  - The kidney is the critical organ for uptake of soluble Se-75 compounds. The lung is the critical organ for inhalation of insoluble compounds. An uptake of selenium is slowly eliminated from the body via the kidneys. The dose committed is reduced by the short physical half-life of Se-75.
  - The annual limit of intake through ingestion is 10 mCi.

### **Waste Disposal**

EHS procedures for disposal of hazardous and/or radioactive wastes are to be followed. Se-75 waste should be segregated from other radioactive waste. Shielding may be necessary for waste containers.

### **Survey Meters**

A survey meter is required to work with Se-75. Either a thin window Geiger-Mueller detector or a NaI detector (minimum 1 inch crystal) can be used to detect Se-75.

### **Personnel Monitoring**

Dosimeters are required when any individual will receive or is likely to receive in any period of one year an occupational dose in excess of 10% of the applicable limits. At UNL, all users of Se-75 are issued whole-body and ring dosimeters.