

Principal statutes and statutory instruments

<p>Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (SI2010:675)</p>	<p>Prohibits a person from keeping or using, or causing to be kept or used, a <i>radioactive material</i> of any description at a premises unless: he holds an environmental permit (see e key facts No.2) for the keeping or use of that material at the premises specified; or he is exempted from registration; or the radioactive material consists of a mobile radioactive apparatus which the person has registered or is exempt from registration.</p> <p>The Regulations specify the circumstances which are exempt from permitting: sites regulated under a nuclear site licence; keeping and use of clocks and watches containing radioactive materials unless they are repaired or manufactured using luminous materials at the premises; or premises or particular types of radioactive material which have been exempted under a specific exemption order. Examples of exemption orders include those applying to certain geological specimens, phosphatic earths, low activity substances, smoke detectors, electronic valves, gaseous tritium light devices, closed sources, testing instruments or specific premises such as schools or hospitals.</p> <p>The Regulations require that application for a radioactive substances activity be made to the Environment Agency and that such an application contain specified information and be accompanied by the appropriate fee. The Agency may either approve the permitting for one or more of the materials or apparatus concerned or may refuse the application. The permit may contain such limits and conditions as the Agency considers appropriate. The Agency may serve notice requiring specified records to be kept.</p> <p>The Regulations prohibit a person from disposing of any radioactive waste on or from a premises or causing or permitting any radioactive waste to be so disposed of except in accordance with an environmental permit. A person is also prohibited from accumulating any radioactive waste or causing or permitting such waste to be accumulated with a view to its subsequent disposal unless: accumulation is in accordance with a permit.; waste is accumulated on a nuclear site; or the waste is kept for period no longer than three months from the date that it became radioactive waste and it is accumulated at an appropriate place at the premises where it was produced. There are further exemptions from the requirement to obtain a permit for accumulating or disposing of radioactive waste arising from clocks and watches or where particular types of radioactive waste have been exempted by order. Under s.20 of the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 the Agency can serve notice requiring specified records to be kept.</p>
<p>Public Information for Radiation Emergencies Regulations 1992 – SI 1992/2997</p>	<p>The Regulations require that a person in control of operations or activities which give rise to a reasonably foreseeable risk of a radiation emergency (defined by reference to exposure thresholds for whole body dose or dose to individual organs or tissues for a member of the public that are set out in the Regulations) shall provide specified information to the public who may be affected by the emergency (see E key facts No. 15).</p>

Criminal penalties and remedies

<p>Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (SI2010:675)</p>	<p>See e key facts No.2</p>
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What radioactive materials are subject to control under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010?

Controlled Radioactive Substances				Explanation
Specified substances	Radioactivity threshold - Solid (Becquerels per gram)	Radioactivity threshold - Liquid (Becquerels per gram)	Radioactivity threshold - Gas or vapour (Becquerels per gram)	
Actinium	0.37	7.40×10^{-2}	2.59×10^{-6}	A Becquerel is a measure of radioactivity which corresponds to the decay rate of one nuclear disintegration per second. A substance in solid, liquid or gaseous form with an activity level greater than the appropriate threshold specified in the columns is considered to be a radioactive substance for the purposes of the Act.
Lead	0.74	3.70×10^{-3}	1.11×10^{-4}	
Polonium	0.37	2.59×10^{-2}	2.22×10^{-4}	
Protoactinium	0.37	3.33×10^{-2}	1.11×10^{-6}	
Radium	0.37	3.70×10^{-4}	3.70×10^{-5}	
Radon	-	-	3.70×10^{-2}	
Thorium	2.59	3.70×10^{-2}	2.22×10^{-5}	
Uranium	11.1	0.74	7.40×10^{-5}	
Any substance possessing radioactivity which is wholly or partly attributable to a process of nuclear fission or other process of subjecting a substance to bombardment by neutrons or to ionising radiations, not being a process occurring in the course of nature, or in the course of the application of a process to some other substance.				
Radioactive waste means waste which consists wholly or partly of— (a) a substance or article which, if it were not waste, would be a controlled radioactive substance; (b) a substance or article which has been contaminated in the course of the production, keeping or use of radioactive substance, or by contact with or proximity to other waste falling within sub-paragraph (a) or this sub-paragraph.				

The above materials may be solid, liquid or gas.