

This OC draws attention to a publication by the Department of Health's Medical Devices Directorate (now known as the Medical Devices Agency) on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment. ...

Health and Safety Executive OC 559/8

Field Operations Division ...

To

Factory Inspectors

EMAS Professional Staff

FCG Specialist Inspectors (Radiation) ...

GUIDELINES FOR MAGNETIC RESONANCE DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT

IN CLINICAL USE ...

INTRODUCTION ...

1 In 1993 the Department of Health's Medical Devices Directorate (now known as the Medical Devices Agency) published *Guidelines for magnetic resonance equipment in clinical use* (to be issued to file 559), which deals with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) equipment, making particular reference to safety. HSE was consulted by the working group that drafted this document. A copy has been placed in the Bootle Library. Further copies can be obtained from the Medical Devices Agency, Ordering Department, Room 222, 14 Russell Square, London WC1B 5EP. Copies cost £20. Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to 'Department of Health'. ...

2 The Guidelines were written primarily for the Health Service, but are equally valid for other organisations using magnetic resonance diagnostic imaging equipment in clinical applications and will have some relevance to users of laboratory magnetic resonance equipment. Since a very wide cross-section of the health-care professional bodies which are involved in the day-to-day use of MRI was on the working group, the guidelines represent a broad consensus of what is good practice. ...

WARNINGS ...

3 Warnings are included that people who have cardiac pacemakers should not enter the controlled area (where the static magnetic field, B_0 , may exceed 0.5mT) except on the advice and under the direct supervision of a registered medical practitioner. Other implants, both active and passive, may be affected by the high magnetic fields and careful consideration should be given before

allowing such staff, patients and volunteers with implants to enter the controlled area__

4 A precautionary approach is advocated for women in the first trimester of pregnancy, although at the time of writing (1992) there was no convincing evidence that electromagnetic fields arising in the normal or controlled modes of operation cause any detrimental effect to the well being of the embryo or foetus. The authors suggest offering members of staff the option of whether or not to enter the controlled area during the first trimester of pregnancy. The decision whether a pregnant patient receives anMRI examination will need to be made by a suitably experienced and qualified medical practitioner.__

ACTION BY INSPECTORS __

5 Inspectors will find this document a useful reference prior to visiting clinicalMRI facilities. They should ask as to whether the management ofMRI suites is aware of it and whether they follow the guidance contained therein.__

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ASI headings__

Health: hospitals: magnetic resonance imaging: medical services and supervision__