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Preface

About 10 years before discovery of X-rays and natural radioactivity by W. C. Röntgen and H. Becquerel, more precisely in 1883, Hans Landolt, Richard Börnstein and Julius Springer have started a series of selected and easily retrievable physical data, which became a successful tool for natural scientists working or practising a profession in fields of chemistry, physics or technology.

Now, i.e. about 120 years after start of this unique data collection and consequently about 100 years after introduction of ionizing radiations and radionuclides in natural sciences, medicine and technology, the Landolt-Börnstein New Series is submitting to the reader a full volume on protection of man against ionizing radiations and radionuclides, i.e. “Radiological Protection”. A comparison with the 6th edition of Landolt-Börnstein containing merely a six pages chapter on “Strahlenschutz” shows the rapid development of the field within the last five decades.

Compared to many of the volumes in the Landolt-Börnstein Series published in the past, the present publication in the group Advanced Materials and Technologies is not only a compilation of numerical data and functional relationships for practical purposes. Rather a comprehensive accompanying text is intended to impart to the scientific or professional user of “Radiological Protection” both data, the concepts and scientific bases of the discipline devoted to prevention of health risks to man from exposure to ionizing radiations and radionuclides.

Conceptually, radiological protection is based on the principles of *justification* of any use of ionizing radiation, of *optimization* of the application of radiation, and *limitation* of the radiation risk to man and his environment by acceptable doses, so that use of radiation and radionuclides in scientific research, medicine, technique and daily life is always of net benefit to man.

Since findings of various scientific disciplines such as medicine, biology, biophysics, nuclear physics and techniques are the basis for radiological protection, multidisciplinary knowledge of fundamentals of these disciplines is necessary for an effective protection of man against health effects of ionizing radiations. Consequently, the present volume contains contributions of experts internationally qualified in scientific disciplines or subjects such as radiation physics, biology and medicine, external and internal dosimetry of ionizing radiation and radionuclides, decontamination and decorporation of radionuclides, or physical and biological measuring techniques. Although a previous volume in the Landolt-Börnstein Series has already considered shielding against high energy radiation such as of accelerators or of cosmic origin the specific item of assessment of radiation shielding was treated, too, however restricted to an extent being necessary for completion of tasks of practical radiological protection, specifically in the field of lower energies.

The present volume addresses to

- those already working in radiological protection, under the aspect of making available to them numerical data and functional relationships e.g. on assessment of radiation doses from external and internal sources, or with the aim of further education and impartation of most recent knowledge in radiological protection and scientific disciplines behind;
- those participating in post-graduate education programmes in radiological protection with the aim to get a qualified expert e.g. in medical radiation physics, or as an employee in a competent national authority for health protection;
- newcomers in the field of radiological protection to submit necessary knowledge on bases and practices of this discipline;
- advanced students of physics, techniques or medicine with special interest in a later professional occupation as health physicists, engineers or technicians;
- physicians practising in X-ray diagnostics, radiation oncology and nuclear medicine with special interest in medical radiological protection.

In the hardcopy of the present volume a CD-ROM is included containing:

- the full text in the multi-platform Adobe-Acrobat(pdf)-format with searchable fulltext index and
- additional information and data, which would be beyond the scope of the printed version, within the interactive programme **SISy** (for MS-Windows only). These refer e.g. to decay data of radionuclides or normalized excretion functions for monitoring workers by quantitative assessment of intakes of radionuclides and calculation of resulting doses.

For further numerical data such as dose coefficients for intake of radionuclides by workers or members of the public that are available from publications e.g. of the International Commission on Radiological Protection ICRP or of the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements ICRU either as hardcopies or in the Internet are not contained on the CD-ROM. The reader is referred to the relevant original sources.

The editors of the present volume want to thank the authors of the contributions for their careful work, the Editor in Chief of the Landolt-Börnstein Series, Prof. Dr. W. Martienssen, for having put "Radiological Protection" on the list of volumes to be prepared for the New Series, and the Publisher, especially Drs. Ch. Meier and R. Poerschke from the editorial office for their permanent and very active engagement in realizing the present opus.

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VIII/4 Radiological Protection

Contents

1	The development of the organizational and the conceptual basis of radiological protection	1-1
2	Biological effects of ionising radiation	2-1
2.1	Introduction	2-1
2.2	Cellular effects	2-2
2.2.1	Primary events following exposure to ionising radiation	2-2
2.2.2	Cellular damage and repair following the primary radiation events	2-3
2.2.3	Classification of radiation-induced damage	2-5
2.2.4	Implications of cellular damage for whole or partial body exposure	2-9
2.3	Deterministic effects	2-9
2.3.1	Tissue and organ development	2-9
2.3.2	Dose-response relationships for radiation damage	2-10
2.3.3	Deterministic effects in humans following acute whole-body irradiation	2-11
2.3.4	Deterministic effects following partial body irradiation	2-12
2.4	Radiation-induced cancer	2-15
2.4.1	Cancer development	2-15
2.4.2	Dose-response relationships	2-16
2.4.3	Exposures to external radiation	2-18
2.4.4	Exposure to internally incorporated radionuclides	2-20
2.4.5	Dose and dose rate effectiveness factors (DDREFs)	2-23
2.4.6	Risk coefficients for protection	2-23
2.4.7	Low dose studies	2-25
2.5	Hereditary disease	2-27
2.5.1	Categories of genetic damage	2-27
2.5.2	Risk coefficients for hereditary disease	2-28
2.6	Irradiation in utero	2-29
2.6.1	Deterministic effects	2-30
2.6.2	Brain function	2-30
2.6.3	Risk coefficients for cancer	2-31
2.6.4	Hereditary disease	2-31
2.7	Summary of risk factors for cancer and hereditary disease	2-32
2.8	Conclusions	2-32
2.9	References	2-34
3	Physical fundamentals	3-1
3.1	Natural radioactivity	3-1
3.2	Elements, isotopes and radionuclides	3-2
3.2.1	Atoms, electrons and the Periodic Table of Elements	3-2
3.2.2	Atomic nuclei, nuclides and the Chart of Nuclides	3-3
3.3	The structure of the atomic nucleus	3-4
3.3.1	Elementary particles	3-4
3.3.2	Nuclear transformations	3-6
3.4	Radioactive decay	3-10
3.4.1	Basic properties	3-10
3.4.2	Decay modes	3-15
3.4.3	The natural radioactive decay families	3-18
3.5	Radioactive radiation	3-24

3.5.1	Types of radiation	3-24
3.5.2	Physical properties of radiation	3-26
3.6	Nuclear fission and fission products	3-30
3.6.1	Particle induced nuclear fission	3-30
3.6.2	Fission products	3-30
3.6.3	Nuclear reactors	3-32
3.6.4	Nuclear explosives	3-32
3.6.5	Radioactive inventory and nuclear waste	3-33
3.6.6	Release of radionuclides from the radioactive inventory of a nuclear reactor	3-38
3.7	References	3-39
4	Radiological quantities and units	4-1
4.1	Introduction	4-1
4.2	Radiation field quantities	4-2
4.2.1	Scalar radiation field quantities	4-2
4.2.2	Vectorial radiation field quantities	4-4
4.3	Interaction coefficients and quantities	4-5
4.3.1	Cross section	4-5
4.3.2	Mass attenuation coefficient and mass energy transfer coefficient	4-5
4.3.3	Mass stopping power and linear energy transfer (LET)	4-6
4.3.4	Mean energy expended in a gas per ion pair formed	4-7
4.4	Quantities related to energy transfer	4-7
4.4.1	Stochastic quantities	4-7
4.4.2	Non-stochastic quantities	4-8
4.5	Dose quantities in radiation protection	4-10
4.5.1	Concept of radiation protection quantities	4-10
4.5.2	Protection quantities	4-11
4.5.3	Operational quantities	4-14
4.6	Radioactivity quantities	4-18
4.6.1	Activity, specific activity, activity concentration, activity per area	4-19
4.6.2	Specific quantities for radon, thoron and their progeny	4-19
4.7	Quantities for internal dosimetry	4-22
4.8	Limits, constraints, action levels	4-23
4.9	References	4-27
5	Shielding against ionizing radiation	5-1
5.1	Introduction	5-1
5.2	Stopping power and range	5-1
5.3	Penetration depths of charged particles	5-2
5.3.1	Heavy charged particles	5-2
5.3.2	Electrons and positrons	5-4
5.4	Photons	5-5
5.4.1	Basic shielding concept	5-5
5.4.2	Attenuation data of radioactive sources in shielding materials	5-6
5.4.3	An example of the calculation of an ambient dose equivalent rate	5-9
5.5	Neutrons	5-16
5.5.1	Basic shielding concepts	5-16
5.5.2	Attenuation data of various neutron sources in shielding materials	5-16
5.5.3	Sample shield calculation	5-18
5.5.4	Induced activity	5-19
5.6	Computer codes and online nuclear data services	5-28
5.7	References	5-32

6	External dosimetry	6-1
6.1	Protection and operational quantities	6-1
6.1.1	Protection quantities	6-1
6.1.2	Operational Quantities	6-1
6.2	Dosimetric models	6-2
6.2.1	Models and phantoms of the human body	6-2
6.2.2	Idealized geometries representing occupational exposures	6-4
6.2.3	Environmental source geometries	6-4
6.2.4	Methods of calculating protection quantities in computational models	6-5
6.3	Conversion coefficients for photons	6-6
6.3.1	Occupational	6-6
6.3.2	Conversion coefficients for environmental gamma ray fields	6-13
6.4	Conversion coefficients for neutrons	6-20
6.5	Conversion coefficients for electrons	6-21
6.5.1	Occupational exposure	6-21
6.5.2	Environmental exposure	6-23
6.6	Doses from external exposure of radionuclides in the environment	6-23
6.7	References	6-42
7	Internal dosimetry of radionuclides	7-1
7.1	Introduction	7-1
7.2	Biokinetics of radionuclides in the body	7-2
7.2.1	Inhalation	7-3
7.2.2	Ingestion	7-10
7.2.3	Cuts and wounds	7-14
7.2.4	Absorption through intact skin	7-15
7.2.5	Systemic behaviour of radionuclides	7-15
7.2.6	Excretion	7-21
7.2.7	Embryo and foetus	7-21
7.2.8	Transfer in maternal milk	7-24
7.3	Dosimetric models	7-25
7.3.1	Introduction	7-25
7.3.2	Absorbed fraction and specific absorbed fraction	7-26
7.3.3	Computational models of the human anatomy	7-28
7.3.4	Dose rate per unit activity, S-factor	7-31
7.3.5	Specific absorbed fractions for various radiations	7-32
7.3.6	Calculation of doses to soft tissues and the skeleton	7-36
7.4	Dose coefficients	7-37
7.4.1	Method of calculation	7-38
7.4.2	Sources of dose coefficients	7-41
7.4.3	Dose coefficients for selected radionuclides	7-43
7.5	Internal monitoring	7-46
7.5.1	Methods of individual monitoring	7-47
7.6	Monitoring programme	7-51
7.6.1	Need for a monitoring programme	7-51
7.6.2	Routine monitoring	7-51
7.6.3	Special or task-related monitoring	7-52
7.6.4	Confirmatory monitoring	7-52
7.6.5	Wound monitoring	7-52
7.7	Dose Assessment	7-53
7.7.1	Estimation of intake and dose	7-53
7.7.2	Control of worker doses	7-54
7.8	Monitoring data for radionuclides (H-3, Co-60, Sr-90, Ru-106, I-131, Cs-134, Cs-137, Ce-144, U-234, Pu-239, Am-241)	7-55
7.9	References	7-68

8	Decontamination	8-1
8.1	Decontamination of materials	8-1
8.1.1	General approaches to decontamination	8-2
8.1.1.1	Contamination	8-2
8.1.1.2	Characteristics of oxide layer in BWRs and PWRs	8-2
8.1.1.3	Other types of contamination	8-3
8.1.1.4	Decontamination	8-4
8.1.1.5	The use of decontamination in decommissioning	8-4
8.1.1.6	Identification of decontaminable components	8-5
8.1.1.7	Effectiveness of decontamination, decontamination factor	8-6
8.1.1.8	Decontamination techniques (processes)	8-7
8.1.1.9	Decontamination and secondary waste generation	8-8
8.1.2	Decontamination techniques for large volume closed systems	8-8
8.1.2.1	Reactor decontamination in BWRs and PWRs	8-8
8.1.2.2	Fuel assemblies and decontamination	8-12
8.1.2.3	Decontamination of sodium cooled systems	8-12
8.1.2.3	Gas cooled reactors (WAGR)	8-13
8.1.3	Decontamination techniques for segmented parts	8-13
8.1.3.1	Chemical decontamination	8-13
8.1.3.2	Electrochemical decontamination	8-15
8.1.3.3	Jetting decontamination techniques	8-18
8.1.3.4	Ultrasonic decontamination	8-19
8.1.3.5	Decontamination by foams	8-21
8.1.3.6	Decontamination by gels	8-21
8.1.3.7	Decontamination by pastes	8-21
8.1.3.8	Mechanical decontamination techniques	8-21
8.1.3.9	Decontamination by strippable coatings	8-22
8.1.3.10	Melting	8-22
8.1.4	Decontamination techniques for building surfaces	8-22
8.2	Decontamination of skin	8-24
8.2.1	Introduction	8-24
8.2.2	Transport of radioactive substances via the skin	8-24
8.2.2.1	Anatomy of the skin	8-24
8.2.2.2	Transport procedure	8-25
8.2.3	Skin dose at contamination	8-25
8.2.3.1	Calculation of the equivalent dose to the skin	8-25
8.2.3.2	Equivalent dose rate conversion coefficients	8-26
8.2.4	Decontamination measures	8-30
8.2.4.1	Organisational and preliminary measures	8-30
8.2.4.2	First aid measures of skin decontamination	8-30
8.2.4.3	Specific decontamination procedures	8-31
8.2.4.4	Decontamination of specific body regions and organs	8-32
8.2.5	Procedure at residual contamination and fixing a reference value	8-32
8.2.5.1	Frequency of decontamination steps	8-32
8.2.5.2	Derivation of the reference value for residual contamination	8-32
8.3	References	8-34
9	Decorporation of radionuclides	9-1
9.1	Introduction	9-2
9.2	General considerations	9-2
9.2.1	Factors affecting the efficacy of treatment	9-2
9.2.2	Factors influencing treatment decisions	9-3
9.2.3	Decision levels	9-3

9.2.4	Perception of risk and its implications.....	9-4
9.2.5	Approaches to treatment.....	9-5
9.3	Methods of treatment.....	9-6
9.3.1	Non-specific procedures.....	9-6
9.3.2	Procedures to enhance systemic radionuclide excretion.....	9-7
9.4	General comments on the efficiency of chelating agents for the actinides.....	9-8
9.4.1	What are the factors that govern the efficacy of chelating agents ?.....	9-9
9.4.2	Can the efficacy of treatment be predicted from animal studies ?.....	9-9
9.4.3	Are chelating agents always most effective when the radionuclides are present in circulating blood ?.....	9-9
9.4.4	Is DTPA effective for all actinides ?.....	9-10
9.4.5	Will the administration of chelating agents result in enhanced tissue deposition ?.....	9-10
9.4.6	Is the administration of sodium carbonate effective for uranium ?.....	9-10
9.4.7	Must chelating agents be administered promptly to be effective ?.....	9-10
9.4.8	Is intravenous injection the best mode of administration ?.....	9-11
9.4.9	How can judgements on efficacy be made ?.....	9-11
9.4.10	When should treatment start ?.....	9-11
9.4.11	When should treatment stop ?.....	9-11
9.4.12	For which materials are chelating agents likely to be effective ?.....	9-11
9.4.13	For which materials are chelating agents unlikely to be effective ?.....	9-12
9.4.14	Is lung lavage more effective than chelation treatment for inhaled materials ?.....	9-12
9.5	Recent developments.....	9-13
9.5.1	Plutonium and americium.....	9-13
9.5.2	Thorium.....	9-13
9.5.3	Uranium.....	9-13
9.6	Optimum treatment protocols.....	9-14
9.6.1	Tritium.....	9-14
9.6.2	The alkaline earth elements, strontium, barium and radium.....	9-14
9.6.3	Iodine.....	9-16
9.6.4	Caesium.....	9-16
9.6.5	Plutonium and americium.....	9-18
9.6.6	Thorium.....	9-26
9.6.7	Uranium.....	9-27
9.7	Future research needs.....	9-29
9.8	References.....	9-31
10	Measuring techniques.....	10-1
10.1	Detectors for radiation protection.....	10-1
10.1.1	Overview and general characteristics of radiation detectors.....	10-1
10.1.2	Gas-filled ionization detectors.....	10-3
10.1.2.1	Ionization and gas amplification.....	10-3
10.1.2.2	Ionization chambers.....	10-4
10.1.2.3	Proportional counters.....	10-8
10.1.2.4	Geiger-Müller counters.....	10-10
10.1.3	Scintillation detectors.....	10-11
10.1.4	Semiconductor detectors.....	10-14
10.1.5	Thermoluminescence and radiophotoluminescence detectors.....	10-18
10.1.6	Photographic films.....	10-20
10.1.7	Detectors for neutrons.....	10-21
10.1.8	Biological dosimetry.....	10-23
10.1.9	References for 10.1.....	10-25
10.2	Radiological protection measurements: external exposure.....	10-27
10.2.1	Operational quantities.....	10-27

10.2.2	Reference levels.....	10-29
10.2.3	Types of exposure.....	10-29
10.2.3.1	Occupational exposure.....	10-30
10.2.3.2	Public exposure.....	10-30
10.2.4	Types of monitoring programs.....	10-31
10.2.4.1	Individual monitoring for external exposure.....	10-31
10.2.4.2	Area monitoring for external exposure.....	10-31
10.2.4.3	Calibration.....	10-32
10.2.5	Requirements for individual monitoring of external exposure.....	10-33
10.2.5.1	Operational requirements.....	10-34
10.2.5.2	Accuracy requirement.....	10-35
10.2.6	Personal dosimeters for individual monitoring in different radiation fields.....	10-36
10.2.6.1	Photon dosimetry.....	10-36
10.2.6.2	Beta dosimetry.....	10-37
10.2.6.3	Neutron dosimetry.....	10-37
10.2.6.4	Dosimetry in mixed field situations (photons and neutrons).....	10-38
10.2.7	References for 10.2.....	10-39
10.3	Radiological protection measurements: internal exposure.....	10-41
10.3.1	Measurement of radon and its progeny.....	10-41
10.3.1.1	Measurement of radon in air.....	10-44
10.3.1.2	Measurement of radon progeny in air.....	10-47
10.3.1.3	Measurement of radon in the ground and in water.....	10-50
10.3.1.4	References for 10.3.1.....	10-51
10.3.2	In vivo measurements.....	10-52
10.3.2.1	Introduction.....	10-52
10.3.2.2	Requirements.....	10-53
10.3.2.3	Principles of γ spectrometry.....	10-56
10.3.2.4	Equipment.....	10-58
10.3.2.5	Spectrum evaluation.....	10-66
10.3.2.6	Measuring geometries.....	10-67
10.3.2.7	Calibration.....	10-71
10.3.2.8	Uncertainties and detection limits.....	10-77
10.3.2.9	Measurement procedure.....	10-79
10.3.2.10	Quality assurance and control.....	10-79
10.3.2.11	References for 10.3.2.....	10-81
10.3.3	In vitro measurements: excretion analyses.....	10-83
10.3.3.1	Introduction.....	10-83
10.3.3.2	Urine samples.....	10-83
10.3.3.3	Faeces samples.....	10-84
10.3.3.4	Exhalation.....	10-84
10.3.3.5	Other biological samples.....	10-85
10.3.3.6	Radiochemical analyses.....	10-85
10.3.3.7	Measuring techniques.....	10-88
10.3.3.8	Quality assurance.....	10-91
10.3.3.9	Examples for dose estimations from in vitro measurements.....	10-93
10.3.3.10	References for 10.3.3.....	10-97
11	Exposures from natural and man-made radiation sources.....	11-1
11.1	Introduction.....	11-1
11.2	Exposures by cosmic radiation and cosmogenic radionuclides.....	11-2
11.2.1	Origin and kinds of cosmic radiation.....	11-2
11.2.2	Exposures by cosmic radiations.....	11-2

11.3	Terrestrial radiation	11-4
11.3.1	External exposures	11-5
11.3.2	Internal exposures	11-6
11.4	Enhanced exposures form industrial activities	11-9
11.5	Worldwide average exposure from natural and man-made sources	11-10
11.6	References	11-12