

Users of Gamma Irradiators at UCSF

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) and the State of California have implemented new requirements for background checks for individuals who have unescorted access to certain radioactive materials. Specifically, it will now be required to submit an individual's fingerprints to access his/her criminal history records.

As a licensee of the state authorized to possess radioactive material in quantities of concern, the University must comply with the new order.

As a result of these new requirements, there are now strict rules that must be followed to obtain access to any UCSF gamma irradiator as outlined below.

Access to irradiator rooms may be "unescorted" or "escorted." "Unescorted Access" is by proxy card authorization only. Environmental Health and Safety has identified all current employees with unescorted access to certain radioactive materials and fingerprints have been submitted. **Effective immediately, all new employees must be authorized by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety prior to "unescorted access."**

1. Before the authorization for "Unescorted Access" is issued, a background check is performed. The background check includes submission of fingerprints to the USNRC/FBI. This fingerprint check is separate from other UCSF fingerprinting. Access is issued when the background results are returned to UCSF.
2. To start the authorization process, email both Dean Norris (Dean.Norris@ucsf.edu) and William Lew (William.Lew@ucsf.edu). You will be provided with detailed information for the background check and fingerprinting. The information describes the fees for the fingerprinting process.
3. For more information, email the persons in #2.

For "Escorted Use," see below.

1. A person may use the irradiator if escorted by a person with authorization.
2. The person providing the escort must remain with the person being escorted the entire time.
3. The person being escorted does not require a background check.
4. Loaning of proxy cards is prohibited.

Please contact either William Lew or Dean Norris for any questions or concerns.