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51-1

BuMed Circular Letter No. 51-1

4 January 1951

To: All Ships and Stations.

Subj: Radon samples; instructions on shipping to National Bureau of Standards.

Ref: (a) BuMed Cir Ltr No. 50-88

1. The attention of the Bureau has been directed to inconsistencies and errors on the part of some naval activities in submitting radon samples to the Radon Testing Laboratory of the National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.
2. Reference (a) setting forth instructions for collection of air and breath samples for radon content is in no way changed by this letter. Careful sampling, labeling, and shipping of radon samples is mandatory.
3. The following suggestions submitted by the Radon Testing Laboratory of the Bureau of Standards are to be strictly observed:
 - a. If an air sample flask is to be used for control or room air sample, or any sample other than breath, remove the filter carefully so as not to bend the spring holder. When the filter has been used replace securely in holder. If, by any chance, the filter is broken in removing or in use, discard all parts. Do not return damaged filters that might become loose in shipment. In such an event, note on the information tag that filter was used and discarded. Do not remove filter from holder if it is not to be used. Read the instruction label on the cover near the filter.
 - b. Read carefully the warning and instructions on the shipping tag enclosed in the flask container and fill in completely and legibly the blank spaces on the reverse side.
 - c. When requesting air sampling flasks do not ask for more than will be used and returned within approximately 2 weeks after they have been received at the station. If, for any reason one or more flasks have not been used at the end of this time, or will not be used within a few days thereafter they should be returned, unused, to the National Bureau of Standards.
 - d. Return all sampling flasks to the Bureau of Standards in the aluminum containers in which they are received with no additional packing. The further packing of these cans in boxes, crates, or other wrapping will not in any way add to the safety of flasks in shipment and frequently delays delivery to the destination.
 - e. Upon completion of the collection of an air sample, see that the stopcock on the top of the flask through which the sample has been collected is promptly turned to the closed position. Do not at any time remove the policeman (rubber cap) from the one stem of the stopcock. When the cover has been replaced on the aluminum shipping container preparatory to shipment be sure that all of the six screws which hold it in place are used and securely tightened.
 - f. When requesting a shipment of flasks from the National Bureau of Standards, specify if any are to be used for workroom air (not control) samples and the number to be used for this purpose. Flasks shipped for this purpose will be carefully marked, "For Workroom Air Only." Care should be exercised to insure that flasks so marked are not used for breath or control samples.--C. A. SWANSON

BuMed Circular Letter No. 51-2

4 January 1951

To: All Activities Having Nurse Corps Officers Aboard

Subj: Flight Nurse Training

1. Members of Nurse Corps, U. S. Naval Reserve, are now eligible for Flight Nurse training at Gunter Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama, under the same conditions as members of the Nurse Corps, U. S. Navy.
2. Applications from candidates meeting requirements should be forwarded to BuMed as promptly as possible. Requirements are: High school graduate and graduate of accredited school of nursing with good background of sciences; not over 30 years of age; rank of ENS and LTJG only.

--C. A. SWANSON

since the incident. State specifically the number of flasks desired for work-room atmosphere, and any other sample expected to be higher than average breath samples.

3.3 Breath Samples. All breath samples shall be taken at the beginning of the day, before the personnel from whom the samples are taken have entered the paint shop or places where radium paint is stored. To insure that the sample indicates radium retained in the body rather than merely inhaled radon, all routine samples shall be collected on a Monday. In order that the control samples will have significance when compared with expired air samples, each individual shall remain in the control room at least 10 minutes before his breath sample is collected. This will permit a relatively complete change of air in the lungs. To collect the sample the individual is required to exhale into a collapsed regulation basketball bladder or rubber balloon of approximately the same volume, until it is distended sufficiently to be free from wrinkles. The subject shall not be permitted to exhale in a forceful manner; a satisfactory sample consists of expired air exhaled as in normal respiration. Meteorological balloons, carried on the Federal Standard Stock Catalogue may also be used in collecting breath samples. These balloons are identified in the FSSC as follows:

Balloon, ML-50, Pilot, 6 inch, 30gm, uncolored

Stock No. RL8-B-729-140

50 in pkg. approximate cost 15¢ each

To transfer the air to the flask, the neck of the bladder or balloon should be pushed on the free end of the glass tube of the stopcock at the top of the flask. If the neck of the balloon will not fit securely on the glass tube of the flask, a suitable reducing coupling shall be used with a short piece of rubber tubing to fit both the coupling and the glass tube of the flask. Since the opposite glass tube is closed by a rubber cap, the air will flow into the flask when the stopcock is turned to the open position, in accordance with the instructions on the card enclosed with the flask. Samples should not remain in the bladder or balloon longer than necessary to effect the collection of the breath sample and its transfer to the flask, since the rubber slowly absorbs radon.

Each individual shall be provided with an individual bladder or balloon, and this balloon shall not be used again until the next sampling period. After the balloon or bladder is used, it shall be flushed several times to prevent contamination adhering to its inner wall. This is accomplished by inflating with an inert gas such as nitrogen or argon, followed by rapid deflation. If there is any reason to believe that a particular breath sample or group of breath samples will have a high radon content, such information should accompany the flask or flasks, so that the National Bureau of Standards can make its measurements with equipment designed for high contamination samples, thus insuring proper evaluation as well as preventing the loss of an extremely high sample by attempting to measure it with equipment designed for normal breath samples.

3.4 Room Samples. Samples of workroom air shall be collected in the manner described above for the collection of control samples, being sure that the filter is always used. These flasks shall not be used in areas where a heavy concentration of radon might be expected, such as in a radium-storage safe where a leaking preparation might be suspected. In such cases the National Bureau of Standards shall be consulted and a suitable flask requested.

3.5 Expeditious Handling. It is extremely important that radon breath samples be returned to the Radon Testing Laboratory, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C., immediately after sealing. Flasks should not be enroute more than 3 or 4 days. These samples must be measured within 7 days after sampling to permit evaluation with any degree of sufficient accuracy to warrant the issuance of a report. Shipments should be planned to permit arrival in Washington before Friday of each week in order that the examination can be started before the sample has deteriorated.

NavMed Circular Letter No. 50-89

16 August 1950

To: All Naval Training Centers, Marine Corps Recruit Depots, and Other Stations Designated by the Bureau

Subj: Submission of Psychiatric Unit Report

Ref: (a) Paragraph 514.2, MMD, 1945

Encl: (1) Copies of NAVMED-1317, Psychiatric Unit Report (omitted from this printing)

1. The submission of subject report in letter form required by reference (a) shall be discontinued.