



DENTAL X-RAY INFO LETTER

February 6, 2006

In March 2005, the Saskatchewan Government introduced a new radiation health and safety regulations.

One of the new regulations requires that you have a quality assurance procedures manual that list the test that you are doing to ensure that the diagnostic quality of your radiographs is as good as it can possibly be. {See section 16 of the new regulations on the other side of this sheet.

You have some options to ensure that you are in compliance with this regulation.

- Develop an in-house system that will outline the tests that you will do and where you will document the results of these tests. {If you do this, you will have to send your system to Saskatchewan Labour to get it approved – see *clause 16(2)(a)*.}
- Purchase an off-the-shelf QA System. {you should check to make sure that Saskatchewan Labour has approved it.}
- Order a QA kit from the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan. {With the assistance of the Saskatchewan Labour's Radiation Safety Unit, the College has developed a Quality Assurance Procedures Manual that contains all the procedures and testing equipment that you will need to be in compliance with *section 16* of the Regulations.}

For those facilities using conventional film, the kit includes:

- A Quality Assurance Procedures Manual with all the procedures, charts and information to implement a comprehensive QA program.
- A digital thermometer to check the temperature of the film developed
- A radiograph check device to ensure the quality of your processing system.

For those facilities with digital systems the kit includes:

- A Quality Assurance Procedures Manual with all the procedures, charts and information to implement a comprehensive QA program.
- An attenuation plate to assess the image receptors for damage and artifacts
- A compact disc containing test patterns and reference images to ensure the quality of the video monitor displays

The kit is available (at cost) to all dentists registered with the College.

If you are interested in purchasing the QA kit, please complete the attached order form and send in along with your payment,



SECTION 16 OF THE REGULATIONS

Section 16 of *The Radiation Health and Safety Regulations, 2005*

Quality Assurance

- 16(1) An owner of ionizing radiation equipment that is used for diagnosis or treatment of human beings must ensure that a quality assurance procedures manual that meets the requirements of subsection (2) is prepared for the use with that equipment.
- 16(2) The Quality Assurance procedures manual must:
- (a) be acceptable to an officer in form and content;
 - (b) clearly specify the quality assurance procedures that are to be followed by the operators and the other occupational workers; and
 - (c) be appropriate to:
 - (i) the extent of using ionizing radiation by the facility; and
 - (ii) the level of expertise of the operators and other occupational workers.
- 16(3) An owner of ionizing radiation equipment that is used for diagnosis relation to human beings must insure that:
- (a) at the times specified by an officer, the operators of the equipment participate in the Radiation Safety Unit's postal quality assurance program by:
 - (i) conducting the tests that are required as part of the program; and
 - (ii) returning the exposed test package to the department promptly;
 - (b) in the case of a hospital, a medical clinic or chiropractic clinic, the operators have ongoing access to the test phantom and step wedge used for carrying out the tests mentioned in sub clause (a)(i); and
 - (c) for each x-ray unit , a quality assurance file is established containing:
 - (i) all raw data for quality assurance carried out on the unit during the last 12 months; and
 - (ii) summaries of results for all quality assurance procedures from when the machine is first used on a patient until three years after a decommissioned machine was last used on a patient.



Quality Assurance Procedures Kit Order Form

201 1st Ave S
1202 The Tower at Midtown
Saskatoon, SK S7K 1J5
Phone: (306) 244-5072

Email: cdss@saskdentists.com

Please return completed form with payment to the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan.
Cheques made payable to the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan or pay by credit card.

Card #: Expiry:
(Visa or MC)

Name on credit card: _____

Electronic versions of the QA Procedures manual and forms are available on the member-side of the saskdentists.com website under, "Professional Resources".

Date: _____ Contact Person: _____

Phone #: _____ Email Address for Receipt(s): _____

Facility Name:
(as it will appear on QA manual) _____

Facility Address:
(as it will appear on QA manual) _____

Dentist(s):
(name to be listed in QA manual) _____

Mailing Address:
(if different from facility address) _____

What type of x-ray imaging is being used? Conventional Film Digital

** If you only have a Pan, Pan/Ceph or CBCT x-ray unit, this form does NOT apply. Please call Kerry Babcock with Radiation Safety at (306) 787-9578 or 1-800-567-7233 for more information. If you are using both imaging modalities, contact Radiation Safety to arrange a special order. **

The cost for a QA kit for **conventional film** is \$70 (GST included). The cost for a QA kit for **digital imaging** is \$60 (GST included). QA kits will be shipped on receipt of payment.