Strontium (Sr-90)

Half Life: 29 years

Radiation: Beta

Shielding: 1.1 cm of plastic/plexiglass or .5 cm aluminum

Dosimetry: Body and ring badges

Detection/Measurement: GM probe (pancake) or NaI probe, wipe tests

General Precautions:
- Maintain your occupational exposure to radiation As Low As Reasonably Achievable [ALARA]
- All persons handling radioactive material must be properly trained by EHS prior to handling and are listed as a rad worker by EHS department
- Plan experiments accordingly to minimize external exposure by reducing exposure time, using shielding and increasing your distance from the radiation source
- Monitor yourself and the work area during and after each use of radioactive material
- Use the smallest amount of radioisotope possible to minimize radiation dose and radioactive waste
- Keep an accurate inventory of all radioactive material including records of all receipts, transfers and disposal – contact EHS for any disposal needs including liquid waste
- Perform and record lab surveys as needed (monthly and post experiment)
• Avoid generating mixed waste (combinations of radioactive, biological and chemical waste)

**Special Precautions:**
• Store Sr-90 behind a minimum of 1.1 cm plexiglass when using
• Use tools to indirectly handle unshielded sources and potentially contaminated containers - no direct hand contact
• Ensure that an appropriate, operational survey meter is present in the work area and turned on whenever Sr-90 is handled to immediately detect contamination
• Shield waste containers as needed to maintain accessible dose rate ALARA

**Safe Lab Practices:**
• Disposable gloves, lab coats, and safety glasses are the minimum PPE required when handling radioactive material
• Remove and discard potentially contaminated PPE prior to leaving the lab area where radioactive material is used
• Cover all lab bench tops where radioactive material is handled with plastic-backed absorbent paper – change as needed
• Handle radioactive solutions in trays large enough to contain the material in the event of a spill
• Never eat, drink, smoke, handle contact lenses, apply cosmetics, or take medicine in the lab - keep food, drinks, and cosmetics out of the lab entirely
• Never pipette by mouth
• Never store food and beverages in refrigerators/freezers used for storing radioisotopes – ensure that isotopes are secured at all times
• Avoid any skin contact with skin-absorbable solvents containing radioactive materials
• Fume hoods and biological safety cabinets for use with non-airborne radioactive material must work properly and be inspected annually by the EHS department
• Do not take any radioactive material off site or use in any ways not approved by the Radiation Safety Officer