

Diagnostic X-ray Testing Frequency Guidelines

ORS G1

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Introduction

This compliance guide is advisory only. Its purpose is to provide information for managing entities, radiation practitioners, manufacturers/suppliers and service engineers on the activities associated with radiological equipment used for diagnostic X-ray procedures. It gives testing frequencies for a range of X-ray equipment used in procedures covered by the Code of Practice for Dental Radiology (ORS C4) and the Code of Practice for Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology (ORS C1).

The Director for Radiation Safety (the Director) at the Office of Radiation Safety (ORS) issued this compliance guide on xx/xx/2021.

Contact

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Testing frequency

Type of equipment	Primary	Secondary	Reference(s)
Intra oral X-ray ¹	Three yearly (C4 and Causer)	NA	Causer DA et al (2005) ORS C4
Panoramic dental unit ¹	Three yearly (C4)	Yearly or two yearly (Causer)	Causer DA et al (2005) ORS C4
Cephalometric dental units ¹	Three yearly (C4)	Yearly or two yearly (Causer)	Causer DA et al (2005) ORS C4
Mammography	Yearly	NA	Heggie JCP et al (2017) – adopted by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists
Computed tomography (CT) and cone beam CT ²	Yearly	Six monthly	Causer DA et al (2005) Holroyd JR, Walker A (2010) – listed on Institute of Physics and Engineering and Medicine website
Fluoroscopic X-ray apparatus (fixed, mobile and benchtop)	Yearly	Six monthly	Causer DA et al (2005)
General radiographic apparatus	Two yearly	Yearly	Causer DA et al (2005)
Dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA)	Three yearly	NA	Causer DA et al (2005)

¹ Traditionally done by a service engineer.

² Including positron emitted tomography (PET) CT, single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) CT and planning CT when also used for diagnostic radiology.

References

Causer DA, Einsiedel P, Heggie JC, et al. 2005. ACPSEM Position Paper: Recommendations for a technical quality control program for diagnostic X-ray equipment. *Australasian Physical & Engineering Sciences in Medicine* 28(2): 69–75. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF03178696>.

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