

## **Are you ready for a Radiation Inspection?**

### **OSHA and State Regulations Require Safety Programs**

All states require a written Radiation Safety Program to protect employees and patients. OSHA focuses on employee safety with your Radiation Program. Your program must be consistent with the safety practices used in the facility at the time of an inspection.

### **Do you know the radiation inspection schedule in your state and what will be reviewed?**

Most states publish a guide to help you understand what will be reviewed during an inspection and the frequency of inspecting facilities. The NC Inspection Checklist and the SC Checklist are good examples of what the inspectors will look for, in addition to the written program, when they visit your facility.

In 2009 in NC, 613 facilities were inspected by the Radiology Compliance Branch. Of that number, 309 facilities had completed programs. These numbers were taken from the newsletter published by the NC Radiation Protection Section in March 2010. All facilities will be inspected at least every 4 years in NC according to the schedule listed on the website.

The questions below are just a sample. **If you answer no to any of these questions you are probably not ready for a radiation inspection in your state.**

1. Have you trained your staff in the last 12 months? A good tip is to train at the same time as you do for OSHA which is also annually.
2. Do you have a customized Safe Work Practices plan? In NC you must customize your plan in accordance with new rules.
3. Do you have a quality control plan?
4. Can you locate all of the equipment registration material required by your state?
5. Do you have a published pregnancy policy for employees and patients?
6. Have you ever used monitoring badges for employees? Did you retain proof of the results?

**The TMC Radiation Safety Manual for Dental Practices** makes the task of preparing for an inspection a little easier. You will be able to focus on other elements of preparation. Read about the TMC Radiation Safety Program.

*As required by the NC Radiation Branch, TMC is registered with the NC Radiation Section to assist practices with developing a customized Safe Work Practices Plan. The TMC Manual has been reviewed by the Radiation sections of both NC and SC.*