



# Radioactive Substances Act 1993

## 1993 CHAPTER 12

### *Authorisation of disposal and accumulation of radioactive waste*

#### <sup>F1</sup><sup>F2</sup>15 Further exemptions from ss. 13 and 14.

<sup>F3</sup>(1) .....

<sup>F4</sup>(1A) The circumstances referred to in subsection (1) are that—

- (a) no radionuclide other than tritium, promethium 147 or radium 226 is present in any clock or watch on the premises (whether or not any radioactive waste arises from it),
- (b) no such clock or watch contains more than one of those radionuclides, and
- (c) either subsection (1B) or (1C) is satisfied.

(1B) This subsection is satisfied if the total quantity of tritium divided by  $10^9$ , plus the total quantity of promethium 147 divided by  $10^7$ , plus the total quantity of radium 226 divided by  $10^4$ , in all such clocks and watches does not exceed 1 (quantity in each case measured in becquerels).

(1C) This subsection is satisfied if—

- (a) all such clocks and watches fall within a description specified in the first column of the table below,
- (b) radioactive waste arises from no more than five of them,
- (c) none of those five gives rise to a quantity of radioactive waste exceeding the figure in the third column of the Table corresponding to the relevant radionuclide listed in the second column.

TABLE

<i>Type of clock or watch</i>	<i>Radionuclide</i>	<i>Relevant value (becquerels)</i>
(i) Watches bearing radioluminescent	Tritium	$2.8 \times 10^8$
	Promethium 147	$5.5 \times 10^6$

**Changes to legislation:** Radioactive Substances Act 1993, Section 15 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 02 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

<i>Type of clock or watch</i>	<i>Radionuclide</i>	<i>Relevant value (becquerels)</i>
deposits and intended to be worn or carried on the person	Radium 226	$5.6 \times 10^3$
(ii) Clocks bearing radioluminescent deposits	Tritium Promethium 147 Radium 226	$3.7 \times 10^8$ $7.4 \times 10^6$ $7.4 \times 10^3$
(iii) Clocks or watches requiring greater luminosity than categories (i) or (ii) above, and having their dials marked at the time of manufacture with “T 25” (tritium), “Pm 0.5” (Promethium 147) or “Ra 1.5” (Radium 226)	Tritium Promethium 147 Radium 226	$9.3 \times 10^8$ $1.9 \times 10^7$ $5.6 \times 10^4$
(iv) Watches containing small sealed glass tubes internally coated with a phosphor and filled with tritium gas	Tritium	$7.4 \times 10^9$

- (2) [<sup>F5</sup>The] Secretary of State may by order [<sup>F6</sup>exempt] particular descriptions of radioactive waste from any of the provisions of section 13 or 14, either absolutely or subject to limitations or conditions; and accordingly such of those provisions as may be specified in an order under this subsection shall not apply to a disposal or accumulation of radioactive waste if it is radioactive waste of a description so specified, and (where the [<sup>F7</sup>exemption] is subject to limitations or conditions) the limitations or conditions specified in the order are complied with.
- (3) In the application of this section to Northern Ireland, the reference to the Secretary of State shall have effect as a reference to the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Ss. 1-24 repealed (S.) (1.9.2018) by [The Environmental Authorisations \(Scotland\) Regulations 2018 \(S.S.I. 2018/219\)](#), reg. 1, **sch. 7 para. 1** (with reg. 78, sch. 5 paras. 3, 4, 6 and transitional provisions and savings (25.11.2021) by [The Environmental Authorisations \(Scotland\) Regulations 2018 \(Transitional and Savings Provisions\) Order 2021 \(S.I. 2021/1309\)](#), arts. 1(1), **3-5**)

---

**Changes to legislation:** Radioactive Substances Act 1993, Section 15 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 02 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

- F2** Act repealed (except for ss. 49(1) for specified purposes and s. 51, Sch. 4 paras. 2, 5-9, 11) (E.W.) (1.10.2011) by The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/2043), **reg. 17** (with reg. 18(2)-(4), Sch. 3)
- F3** S. 15(1) repealed (S.) (1.10.2011) by The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (S.S.I. 2011/207), regs. 1(1), **4(1)** and (N.I.) (1.10.2011) by The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 (S.R. 2011/290), regs. 1, **4(1)**
- F4** S. 15(1A)-(1C) inserted (N.I.) (1.5.2003) by The Radioactive Substances (Basic Safety Standards) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003/208), regs. 1, **4(1)(b)**
- F5** Word in s. 15(2) substituted (S.) (1.10.2011) by The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (S.S.I. 2011/207), regs. 1(1), **4(2)(a)** and (N.I.) (1.10.2011) by The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 (S.R. 2011/290), regs. 1, **4(2)(a)**
- F6** Word in s. 15(2) substituted (S.) (1.10.2011) by The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (S.S.I. 2011/207), regs. 1(1), **4(2)(b)** and (N.I.) (1.10.2011) by The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 (S.R. 2011/290), regs. 1, **4(2)(b)**
- F7** Word in s. 15(2) substituted (S.) (1.10.2011) by The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (S.S.I. 2011/207), regs. 1(1), **4(2)(c)** and (N.I.) (1.10.2011) by The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 (S.R. 2011/290), regs. 1, **4(2)(c)**

---

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** S. 15(2) excluded (E.W.) by S.I. 2010/675, reg. 2(4) (as inserted (29.3.2011) by The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/988), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 2(b)** (with regs. 2, 47(2)))

**Changes to legislation:**

Radioactive Substances Act 1993, Section 15 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 02 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

- Act modified by [2014 c. 20 Sch. 1 para. 5](#)
- Act saving for effects of S.I. 2016/1154, reg. 72 by [S.S.I. 2018/219 Sch. 5 para. 346](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 34A(1A)-(1C) inserted by [2022 c. 35 s. 14\(3\)](#)