Radium Luminous Devices: Tips for Your Safety

compounds. Are radium luminous devices confirm if a device contains radium luminous materials. Only a radiation survey meter can identified or marked as containing radioactive materials. Radium luminous devices are generally not hazardous under certain circumstances. Radium is an occurring radioactive nuclear substance that can be dangerous if:

- it is inhaled: (for example, as a result of loose radium luminous paint).
- it is ingested (example, transferred from contaminated hands).
- it is opened, because the radium inside the device can be hazardous if:
  - the radium luminous paint on the device may not be intact, the risk of contamination is limited. However, when a device is opened, the radium inside the device remains radioactive.
  - several of them are stored together or displayed as a collection, which can cause high radiation levels to develop.
- it is absorbed through the skin (for example, through an open wound).
- it is removed from its container and how can I identify one?

Until the 1960s, various consumer and military products — such as wristwatches, clocks, marine devices and aircraft instruments — were manufactured using a radium-based, glow-in-the-dark paint. These products are called radium luminous devices. Service activities include:

- removing radium luminous compounds from a product.
- disassembling or repairing the device.
- reassembling the device.

As long as a radium luminous device remains intact, the risk of contamination is limited. However, when a device is opened, the radium inside the device remains radioactive. If you have a damaged radium luminous device, contact the CNSC for additional advice.

Who may possess these devices? Devices Regulations Section 8 of the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Protection and Assessment Devices Regulations, a person may possess, transfer or use an unlimited number of radium luminous devices without a licence, provided that:

- the radium is the only nuclear substance in the device.
- the radium luminous paint on the device may not have a damaged radium luminous device, contact the CNSC.

The CNSC regulates the possession, use, transfer, and service of radium luminous devices in order to protect people and the environment. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) recommends these precautions when handling and storing radium luminous devices safely?

- Wear disposable gloves when handling a radium luminous device.
- Do not open a radium luminous device.
- Minimize the number of radium luminous devices stored or displayed in one location.
- Cracked or damaged devices should be contained. If you have a damaged radium luminous device, contact the CNSC.
- Dispose of radium luminous devices at a CNSC-licensed radioactive waste management facility. To identify a licensed waste facility near you, contact the CNSC.

For more information about radium luminous devices or the CNSC and its mandate, please contact:

Email: radium@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca
Fax: (613) 995-5086
Telephone: (613) 995-5894 or 1-800-668-5284
P.O. Box 1046, 280 Slater Street
Ottawa ON K1P 5S9
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)
www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca
How are radium luminous devices regulated?

Who may possess these devices?

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) regulates the possession, use, transfer, and service of radium luminous devices in order to protect people and the environment.

Under an exemption granted by the Commission to Section 8 of the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Regulations, a person may possess, transfer or use an unlimited number of radium luminous devices without a licence, provided that:

- radium is the only nuclear substance in the device.
- the device is not disassembled or tampered with.

A CNSC licence is required to service radium luminous devices. Service activities include:

- disassembling or repairing the device.
- removing radium luminous compounds from the device.

How can I handle, store and dispose of radium luminous devices safely?

The CNSC recommends these precautions when handling and storing radium luminous devices to protect yourself from unnecessary risk:

- Do not open a radium luminous device.
- Minimize the number of radium luminous devices stored or displayed in one location.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling a radium luminous device.
- Cracked or damaged devices should be contained. If you have a damaged radium luminous device, contact the CNSC for additional advice.

- Do not eat, drink or smoke in areas where the devices are handled or stored.
- Store the devices in a secure location away from occupied areas.
- Dispose of radium luminous devices at a CNSC-licensed radioactive waste management facility. To identify a licensed waste facility near you, contact the CNSC.

Are radium luminous devices dangerous?

The radium inside these devices is a naturally occurring radioactive nuclear substance that can be hazardous under certain circumstances. Radium can be harmful if:

- it is ingested (for example, transferred from contaminated hands).
- it is inhaled (for example, as a result of loose radium luminous paint).
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What is a radium luminous device and how can I identify one?

Until the 1960s, various consumer and military products — such as wristwatches, clocks, marine compasses and aircraft instruments — were manufactured using a radium-based, glow-in-the-dark paint. These products are called radium luminous devices.

The most common remaining radium luminous devices are aircraft instruments, and there are tens of thousands of these in Canada today. Although the radium in these devices remains radioactive for thousands of years, their paint usually breaks down chemically after several years and may no longer glow in the dark. When new, the radium luminous paint was often white, but typically tarnished yellow as it aged.

Radium luminous devices are generally not identified or marked as containing radioactive materials. Only a radiation survey meter can confirm if a device contains radium luminous compounds.

Are radium luminous devices dangerous?

The radium inside these devices is a naturally occurring radioactive nuclear substance that can be hazardous under certain circumstances. Radium can be harmful if:

- It is ingested (for example, transferred from contaminated hands).
- It is opened, because the radium inside the instrument remains radioactive.
- The radium luminous paint on the device surface becomes brittle with age and flakes off.
- Several of them are stored together or displayed as a collection, which can cause high radiation levels to develop.

How are radium luminous devices regulated?

Who may possess these devices?

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Under an exemption granted by the Commission to Section 8 of the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Regulations, a person may possess, transfer or use an unlimited number of radium luminous devices without a licence, provided that:

- Radium is the only nuclear substance in the device.
- The device is not disassembled or tampered with.

A CNSC licence is required to service radium luminous devices. Service activities include:

- Disassembling or repairing the device.
- Removing radium luminous compounds from the device.

ow can I handle, store and dispose of radium luminous devices safely?

The CNSC recommends these precautions when handling and storing radium luminous devices to protect yourself from unnecessary risk:

- Do not open a radium luminous device.
- Minimize the number of radium luminous devices stored or displayed in one location.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling a radium luminous device.
- If a radium luminous device is damaged, contact the CNSC.
- Contact the CNSC for additional advice.

- Do not eat, drink or smoke in areas where the devices are handled or stored.
- Store the devices in a secure location away from occupied areas.
- Dispose of radium luminous devices at a CNSC-licensed radioactive waste management facility. To identify a licensed waste facility near you, contact the CNSC.

For more information

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The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission regulates the use of nuclear energy and materials to protect health, safety, security, the environment and to respect Canada’s international obligations with respect to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
What is a radium luminous device and how can I identify one?

Until the 1960s, various consumer and military products — such as wristwatches, clocks, marine compasses and aircraft instruments — were manufactured using a radium-based, glow-in-the-dark paint. These products are called radium luminous devices.

The most common remaining radium luminous devices are aircraft instruments, and there are tens of thousands of these in Canada today. Although the radium in these devices remains radioactive for thousands of years, their paint usually breaks down chemically after several years and may no longer glow in the dark. When new, the radium luminous paint was often white, but typically tarnished to yellow as it aged.

Radium luminous devices are generally not identified or marked as containing radioactive materials. Only a radiation survey meter can confirm if a device contains radium luminous compounds.

Are radium luminous devices dangerous?

The radium inside these devices is a naturally occurring radioactive nuclear substance that can be hazardous under certain circumstances. Radium can be harmful if:

- it is ingested (for example, transferred from contaminated hands).
- it is inhaled: (for example, as a result of loose radium luminous paint).
- it is absorbed through the skin (for example, through an open wound).

As long as a radium luminous device remains intact, the risk of contamination is limited. However, the device can be hazardous if:

- it is opened, because the radium inside the instrument remains radioactive.
- the radium luminous paint on the device surface becomes brittle with age and flakes off.
- several of them are stored together or displayed as a collection, which can cause high radiation levels to develop.

Under an exemption granted by the Commission to Section 8 of the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Regulations, a person may possess, transfer or use an unlimited number of radium luminous devices without a licence, provided that:

- radium is the only nuclear substance in the device.
- the device is not disassembled or tampered with.

A CNSC licence is required to service radium luminous devices. Service activities include:

- disassembling or repairing the device.
- removing radium luminous compounds from the device.

How are radium luminous devices regulated?

Who may possess these devices?

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) regulates the possession, use, transfer, and service of radium luminous devices in order to protect people and the environment.

The CNSC recommends these precautions when handling and storing radium luminous devices to protect yourself from unnecessary risk:

- Do not open a radium luminous device.
- Minimize the number of radium luminous devices stored or displayed in one location.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling a radium luminous device.
- Clocked or damaged devices should be contained. If you have a damaged radium luminous device, contact the CNSC for additional advice.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke in areas where the devices are handled or stored.
- Store the devices in a secure location away from occupied areas.
- Dispose of radium luminous devices at a CNSC-licensed radioactive waste management facility. To identify a licensed waste facility near you, contact the CNSC.

How can I handle, store and dispose of radium luminous devices safely?

The CNSC recommends that radium luminous devices be handled, stored and disposed of according to the following precautions:

- Do not open a radium luminous device.
- Minimize the number of radium luminous devices stored or displayed in one location.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling a radium luminous device.
- Clocked or damaged devices should be contained. If you have a damaged radium luminous device, contact the CNSC for additional advice.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke in areas where the devices are handled or stored.
- Store the devices in a secure location away from occupied areas.
- Dispose of radium luminous devices at a CNSC-licensed radioactive waste management facility. To identify a licensed waste facility near you, contact the CNSC.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission regulates the use of nuclear energy and materials to protect health, safety, security and the environment and to respect Canada's international obligations with respect to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

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Tips for Your Safety

Radium Luminous Devices:

- can be harmful if:
  - it is inhaled: (for example, as a result of loose radium luminous paint).
  - it is ingested (example, transferred from contaminated hands).
  - absorbed through the skin (for example, from cracks in the radium luminous paint).

As long as a radium luminous device remains intact, the risk of contamination is limited. However, when intact, the radium inside the device can be hazardous if:

- it is opened, because the radium inside the device is not disassembled or tampered with.
- the radium luminous paint on the device flakes off.
- several of them are stored together or displayed as a collection, which can cause high radiation levels to develop.
- it is handled or stored.

• Wear disposable gloves when handling a radium luminous device.
• Do not open a radium luminous device.
• Do not eat, drink or smoke in areas where the devices are handled or stored.
• Store the devices in a secure location away from occupied areas.
• Dispose of radium luminous devices at a CNSC-licensed radioactive waste management facility. To identify a licensed waste facility near you, contact the CNSC.

The CNSC recommends these precautions when handling and storing radium luminous devices.

Who may possess these devices?

Devices Regulations Section 8 of the Nuclear Substances and Radiations Protection Act,

Who may possess these devices regulated?

A CNSC licence is required to service radium luminous devices. Service activities include:

- removing radium luminous compounds.
- disassembling or repairing the device.
- the device is not disassembled or tampered with.
- radium is the only nuclear substance that can be identified or marked as containing radioactive substances.

The most common remaining radium luminous devices are aircraft instruments, and there are tens of thousands of these in Canada today. Although until the 1960s, various consumer and military uses of nuclear energy and radium luminous devices were the focus of international obligations with respect to the protection of health, safety, security, and the environment and to respect Canada’s international obligations.

How are radium luminous devices manufactured using a radium-based, chemical after several years and may no longer glow in the dark. When new, the radium luminous paint was often white, but typically tarnished to display as a collection, which can cause high radiation levels to develop.

Thousands of these devices are stored or displayed in one location.

• 	 Dispose of radium luminous devices at a CNSC-licensed radioactive waste management facility.
• 	 Store the devices in a secure location away from occupied areas.
• 	 Do not eat, drink or smoke in areas where the devices are handled or stored.
Tips for Your Safety

Radium Luminous Devices:

- The radium inside these devices is naturally hazardous under certain circumstances. Radium compounds are radioactive.
- It is important to confirm if a device contains radium luminous materials. Only a radiation survey meter can identify or marked as containing radioactive substances.
- Are radium luminous devices dangerous?
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- Radium luminous devices are generally not identified or marked as containing radioactive substances. The radium in these devices remains radioactive for thousands of years, their paint usually breaks down chemically after several years and may no longer glow in the dark. When new, the radium luminous paint was often white, but typically tarnished to display as a collection, which can cause people and the environment.

Who may possess these devices?

- The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) regulates the possession, use or transfer, and service of radium luminous devices in order to protect health, safety, security and the environment and to respect Canada’s international obligations with respect to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

How are radium luminous devices regulated?

- The CNSC recommends these precautions when handling and storing radium luminous devices:
  - Do not open a radium luminous device.
  - Do not disassemble or repair the device.
  - Radium is the only nuclear substance in the device.
  - Do not allow radium luminous devices to be displayed in one location.
  - Several radium luminous devices should be contained. If you have a damaged radium luminous device, contact the CNSC.
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• it is inhaled: (for example, as a result of loose radium luminous paint).
• it is ingested (example, transferred from contaminated hands).
• it is absorbed through the skin (example, radium luminous device).

Handling and storing radium luminous devices

- The CNSC recommends these precautions when handling and storing radium luminous devices:
  - Do not open a radium luminous device.
  - Do not disassemble or repair the device.
  - Radium is the only nuclear substance in the device.
  - Do not allow radium luminous devices to be displayed in one location.
  - Several radium luminous devices should be contained. If you have a damaged radium luminous device, contact the CNSC.
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