



Radon-222

Radon has been identified at your site – what does this mean?

What is Radon and how does it affect my site?

Radon-222 is a naturally occurring radioactive gas present across the UK that can increase the risk of lung cancer.

Concentration levels can vary across regions and sites and can fluctuate with the seasons. The gas seeps naturally from the ground and can build up indoors within 'below-ground' spaces such as basements.



For sites which have mitigation measures installed, usually in the form of radon fans, NHSPS is ensuring that these fans are under a routine pre planned maintenance programme.

What will NHS Property Services (NHSPS) do to monitor and manage Radon?

NHSPS has a monitoring programme for Radon in place for all our buildings. Monitoring dose meters will be placed within rooms at ground or basement levels areas for a defined time period. It is important that once the monitors are placed, they are not removed from the site or re-located.

When monitoring results are received, we will share them with our customers so we can collaborate to ensure the appropriate action is taken. Radon is measured in Bq/m³ and the 'Action Level' is 300 Bq/m³.

If the result is:

Below 200 Bq/m³

We will re-monitor in 10 years' time.

Between 200 Bq/m³ and 300 Bq/m³

We will immediately re-monitor to check the readings are correct.

Above 300 Bq/m³

We will immediately re-monitor the areas to check the readings are correct. We will also send the results to our Radiation Protection Adviser for further advice and support.

If the re-monitoring results are below 300 Bq/m³, our Radiation Protection Adviser will provide us with advice and support with a likely outcome of re-monitoring in 5 years' time.

If the re-monitoring results are above 300 Bq/m³, NHSPS will seek further specialist advice on the possibility of introducing mitigation measures such as radon fans or specialist equipment to help reduce the levels. It may be that a short term or permanent measure of limiting the time spent within the location could be applied. This may be introduced temporarily until remediation work and further re-monitoring has been completed.



What do you need to do as an employer?

As required under health & safety law, all employers must consider all risks to the health of their employees and take steps to minimise harm. This includes the potential harmful effects of Radon. Employers must treat it like other workplace hazards and assess the risks to their staff from exposure.

If the result is:

Below 300 Bq/m³

If NHSPS has provided you with a location annual average reading below 300 Bq/m³. You may decide to do nothing, but one of the simplest ways of restricting exposure is to limit the time anyone can spend in that room each year.

Employees should be reassured that these limits are set well below the legal dose limits and are designed to keep them safe while at work.

Above 300 Bq/m³

If the readings exceed 300Bq/m³, as landlords NHSPS will be working with you to help protect your employees. We'll seek specialist advice to assess if further mitigation measures can be introduced. During this time, you may be required to introduce temporary limitation measures until remediation work and further re-monitoring has been completed.

To comply with the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) you must notify all employees working in a radon atmosphere to the Health and Safety Executive. If you have not submitted a notification previously, then you must arrange to do this. One notification covers all radon affected premises for a named employer so once informed there is no need to do it twice.

To provide you with further support on making any decisions we recommend that you engage a Radiation Protection Adviser.



If you suspect that any radon fans have become inoperable, please report this as a reactive task on Connect as soon as possible.