

TURN-AROUND TIME OF PLAN APPLICATIONS

- The service target by the X-ray Inspection Service (XRIS) at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (ministry) is a turnaround time of **10 business days** for processing Plan applications **provided that the submission is complete and accurate, containing all of the items in boxes entitled, Part A + B.**
- Applications that are **missing Part B** information may take longer to process (**up to 5 weeks**). Applications with incomplete or inaccurate information may be returned unapproved or delayed.
- After submission, **any subsequent changes made to the initial application** (e.g., desired machine make/model) during the evaluation process requires a new application. Therefore, please check with your supplier and ensure the availability of the desired make/model to avoid unnecessary delays to your initial application.

WHO APPROVES PLANS?

According to section 3 of the *Healing Arts Radiation Protection (HARP) Act*, the Director of X-Ray Safety (Director) at the ministry approves the installation of X-ray rooms for appropriate radiation shielding.

WHEN AM I REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A PLAN?

Approval is required from the Director with submission of a new schematic floor plan ('Plan') **before**:

1. Installing a new X-ray machine (s. 3(1) of HARP Act); or
2. Making any changes to the **original approved installation Plan** (s. 3(6) of HARP Act). Examples of such changes may include, but are not limited to:
 - Replacing or upgrading an existing X-ray machine with a new unit (for example, replacing a conventional film X-ray machine with a digital unit)
 - Performing any service work or repair which requires a change to the installation of an existing X-ray machine, **excluding** routine maintenance procedures for proper unit operation using original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts
 - Increasing the usage or **workload** (for example, number of X-rays taken per week) of the X-ray machine beyond the value approved on the original Plan
 - Making any changes, structural or otherwise, to spaces adjacent to the X-ray room that would alter their usage or increase their occupancy (for example, converting an adjacent X-ray operatory into a reception area).

HOW DO I SUBMIT?

All completed electronic versions of the Plan, the Forms related to the Plan, and the information listed in **Parts A + B** of this pamphlet may be submitted to xrisplans@ontario.ca with the ministry issued registration number in the subject line.

Note on dental CT scanners: A letter of designation is required from the Minister (or authorized delegate) **before** installation of a dental CT scanner (s. 23 of HARP Act). Please contact XRIS for more information.

PART A - MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Please submit all three of the following documents to the Director:

1. The Plan (see 'Plan Drawing Requirements' heading)
2. Completed **Form 2** - "Application for Approval of X-ray Installation"
3. One completed **Form 3** - "X-ray Equipment and Shielding Specifications" - for each X-ray room.

Note: Please ensure all appropriate areas are signed.

PART B - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO EXPEDITE PLAN APPROVAL PROCESS

Submission of the following items with your Plan application, although not mandatory, will ensure a prompt review and quicker turnaround time:

1. **Radiation shielding calculations** as per appropriate Health Canada Safety Code, as applied to your facility
2. X-ray machine manual or user guide
3. Image receptor information provided on page 2 of Form 3
4. Scatter radiation data (for panoramic and 3D/CBCT scanners)
5. Dose linear product numbers (for 3D/CBCT scanners).

RADIATION SHIELDING CALCULATIONS

Submission of proper shielding calculations is strongly recommended as it will not only expedite the review of your Plan submission but also ensure that the right amount of shielding is being installed at your X-ray room. If a third-party is submitting the Plan application on your behalf, it is recommended that you verify the qualifications of the Plan submitter, **especially whether the submitter has the expertise to perform shielding calculations.**

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS AFTER PLAN APPROVAL?

Once the Plan is approved, it will be returned to the Plan submitter via e-mail along with the Director's approval letter and blank copy of **Form 1**. Please complete and submit Form 1 within 15 days of equipment installation or ownership change to register your X-ray machine with XRIS.

Please have a copy of the approved Plan readily available onsite as part of your facility's records, to be presented to an XRIS inspector for review upon request.

PLAN DRAWING REQUIREMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Hard-copy Plans are no longer accepted as of October 1, 2013. The conversion to purely electronic processing of Plans is a "green" initiative that exemplifies the Ontario Government's commitment to reduce the carbon footprint of its operations.

1. The Plan is to be submitted in one of the following electronic formats:
 - A. Electronic (PREFERRED): either AutoCAD file (.dwg) or Adobe Acrobat Reader file (.pdf); **OR**
 - B. Adobe Reader photo-scan file (.pdf) of hard-copy version of the Plan, **IF** the content is fully legible when the PDF is printed on paper no larger than ledger size (11"x17").
- Please note:** Drawings that conform to professional standards (including architectural, engineering) are recommended, and will expedite review.
2. Include either on the Plan or Form 3, where appropriate, **ALL items listed in section 2 of HARP Act Regulation 543.**
 3. Use the following symbols on the Plan, where necessary:
 - "★" to mark doors that should be equipped with self-closing devices.
 - "#" to indicate areas that require procedural control to prevent occupancy of the area during an X-ray exposure.
 4. The Plan must be legible and drawn to a scale of 1:50 or greater.
 5. Include owner's name, full address (with postal code), and date on the Plan.
 6. **For offices with existing Plans:** Submit a new (non-recycled) drawing. Recycling a previously approved plan is **unacceptable** as a new submission because the original approved Plan may have ministry annotations (such as 'not approved for CT') which do not apply to the new submission.

Please note: Any Plan that omits requirements #3 to #6 above will be returned to the sender for rectification, without review.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND LINKS

X-Ray Inspection Service (XRIS)
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
1075 Bay Street, 11th Floor, Toronto ON M5S 2B1
Telephone: (416) 327-7937 Fax: (416) 327-8805
Submission of all Plan documents and Forms 1, 2, 3: xrisplans@ontario.ca
General inquiries: xris@ontario.ca

As of February 2014, new versions of **Forms 1, 2, and 3** are made available at:
www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca

Copies of the HARP Act and Regulation 543 can be found at:

www.e-laws.gov.on.ca

Link to **Health Canada Safety Codes:**

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/radiation/index-eng.php>