

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

§ 20.1007

Rad is the special unit of absorbed dose. One rad is equal to an absorbed dose of 100 ergs/gram or 0.01 joule/kilogram (0.01 gray).

Rem is the special unit of any of the quantities expressed as dose equivalent. The dose equivalent in rems is equal to the absorbed dose in rads multiplied by the quality factor (1 rem=0.01 sievert).

Sievert is the SI unit of any of the quantities expressed as dose equivalent. The dose equivalent in sieverts is equal to the absorbed dose in grays multiplied by the quality factor (1 Sv=100 rems).

(b) As used in this part, the quality factors for converting absorbed dose to dose equivalent are shown in table 1004(b).1.

TABLE 1004(B).1—QUALITY FACTORS AND ABSORBED DOSE EQUIVALENCIES

| Type of radiation | Quality factor | Absorbed dose equal to a unit dose equivalent ^a |
|--|----------------|--|
| | (Q) | |
| X-, gamma, or beta radiation | 1 | 1 |
| Alpha particles, multiple-charged particles, fission fragments and heavy particles of unknown charge | 20 | 0.05 |
| Neutrons of unknown energy | 10 | 0.1 |
| High-energy protons | 10 | 0.1 |

^a Absorbed dose in rad equal to 1 rem or the absorbed dose in gray equal to 1 sievert.

(c) If it is more convenient to measure the neutron fluence rate than to determine the neutron dose equivalent rate in rems per hour or sieverts per hour, as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, 1 rem (0.01 Sv) of neutron radiation of unknown energies may, for purposes of the regulations in this part, be assumed to result from a total fluence of 25 million neutrons per square centimeter incident upon the body. If sufficient information exists to estimate the approximate energy distribution of the neutrons, the licensee may use the fluence rate per unit dose equivalent or the appropriate Q value from table 1004(b).2 to convert a measured tissue dose in rads to dose equivalent in rems.

TABLE 1004(B).2—MEAN QUALITY FACTORS, Q, AND FLUENCE PER UNIT DOSE EQUIVALENT FOR MONOENERGETIC NEUTRONS

| | Neutron energy (MeV) | Quality factor ^a (Q) | Fluence per unit dose equivalent ^b (neutrons cm ⁻² rem ⁻¹) |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| (thermal) | 2.5×10 ⁻⁸ | 2 | 980×10 ⁶ |
| | 1×10 ⁻⁷ | 2 | 980×10 ⁶ |
| | 1×10 ⁻⁶ | 2 | 810×10 ⁶ |
| | 1×10 ⁻⁵ | 2 | 810×10 ⁶ |
| | 1×10 ⁻⁴ | 2 | 840×10 ⁶ |
| | 1×10 ⁻³ | 2 | 980×10 ⁶ |
| | 1×10 ⁻² | 2.5 | 1010×10 ⁶ |
| | 1×10 ⁻¹ | 7.5 | 170×10 ⁶ |
| | 5×10 ⁻¹ | 11 | 39×10 ⁶ |
| | 1 | 11 | 27×10 ⁶ |
| | 2.5 | 9 | 29×10 ⁶ |
| | 5 | 8 | 23×10 ⁶ |
| | 7 | 7 | 24×10 ⁶ |
| | 10 | 6.5 | 24×10 ⁶ |
| | 14 | 7.5 | 17×10 ⁶ |
| | 20 | 8 | 16×10 ⁶ |
| | 40 | 7 | 14×10 ⁶ |
| | 60 | 5.5 | 16×10 ⁶ |
| | 1×10 ² | 4 | 20×10 ⁶ |
| | 2×10 ² | 3.5 | 19×10 ⁶ |
| | 3×10 ² | 3.5 | 16×10 ⁶ |
| | 4×10 ² | 3.5 | 14×10 ⁶ |

^a Value of quality factor (Q) at the point where the dose equivalent is maximum in a 30-cm diameter cylinder tissue-equivalent phantom.

^b Monoenergetic neutrons incident normally on a 30-cm diameter cylinder tissue-equivalent phantom.

§ 20.1005 Units of radioactivity.

For the purposes of this part, activity is expressed in the special unit of curies (Ci) or in the SI unit of becquerels (Bq), or their multiples, or disintegrations (transformations) per unit of time.

(a) One becquerel = 1 disintegration per second (s⁻¹).

(b) One curie = 3.7×10¹⁰ disintegrations per second = 3.7×10¹⁰ becquerels = 2.22×10¹² disintegrations per minute.

[56 FR 23391, May 21, 1991; 56 FR 61352, Dec. 3, 1991]

§ 20.1006 Interpretations.

Except as specifically authorized by the Commission in writing, no interpretation of the meaning of the regulations in this part by an officer or employee of the Commission other than a written interpretation by the General Counsel will be recognized to be binding upon the Commission.

§ 20.1007 Communications.

Unless otherwise specified, communications or reports concerning the