



**AUSTRALIAN DENTAL  
ASSOCIATION**

---

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

# **Radiation Licensing for Dental Practices in South Australia**

## **RADIATION LICENSING FOR DENTAL PRACTICES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA:**

The new South Australian [Radiation Protection and Control Act 2021](#) and [Radiation Protection and Control Regulations 2022](#) commenced on 11 February 2023.

### **What's changed?**

A dedicated Code of Compliance has been developed for dental practice (COC-4) : [Codes of Compliance | EPA](#). The Code outlines the requirements for construction, installation and operation of intra-oral, panoramic, cephalometric and CBCT x-ray apparatus.

- Compliance testing – required at equipment installation, following major repairs and thereafter every 5 years.
- From 1 February 2026 introduction of cyclic (5-year) testing and annual servicing no longer required
- Mutual license recognition – practitioners temporarily moving from another state (where they are licensed), must notify the EPA but do not require additional licensing.
- Radiation management Plan requires additional information.

Reference:

[COC 1 - Code of Compliance for radiation management plans 2022 \(epa.sa.gov.au\)](#)

[COC-4 Code of Compliance for dental X-ray apparatus used for plain, panoramic and cephalometric radiography and cone-beam computed tomography 2022 \(epa.sa.gov.au\)](#)

[Guidance document - Dental industry \(epa.sa.gov.au\)](#)

## Table of Contents

1. NEW GRADUATES In South Australia.....	4
2. Practice/Business Owners: License To Possess:.....	5
3. Equipment Registration with the EPA:.....	5
4. Dental Practitioners/ Registered Clinicians: License To Use/Operate:.....	5
5. Personal Monitoring Devices: .....	6
6. Sale/Disposal of Apparatus.....	6
7. Dental radiography – useful resources for clinicians: .....	6

## 1. NEW GRADUATES In South Australia

Dental Practitioners and Dental Assistants must hold a licence from the South Australian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) if they wish to operate ionising-radiation apparatus.

This Licence to Operate an Ionising Radiation Apparatus will allow the licensed Dentist, Hygienist, Dental Therapist, Oral Health Therapist, Prosthetist or non-registered Dental Workers such as Dental Assistants who have undertaken the nationally-mandated units of study required for dental radiography licensing, to produce radiographic images within their designated Scope of Practice and depending on the type of licence held including:

- Intra-oral views such as periapical, bitewing and occlusal views.
- Extra-oral views such as panoramic views (OPG) and lateral cephalometric radiographs
- Hand-wrist radiographs

To be licensed to operate a Cone Beam Volumetric Tomography (CBVT) unit, Dentists/Specialists and other Dental Practitioners must pass a licensing exam administered or approved by the EPA.

The types of images for which the Practitioner or Dental Assistant is licensed to produce are listed on the individuals Licence.

A License to Operate an Ionising Radiation Apparatus is valid for a period of one year. The EPA will send a reminder notice to applicants when renewal is due.

EPA Link - [EPA :: Environment Protection Authority South Australia \(elf.sa.gov.au\)](http://elf.sa.gov.au)

### 1a. INTERSTATE (temporary) workers

Practitioners who hold valid authorisation in another jurisdiction can undertake the same activities in South Australia without the need to make an application, obtain an additional licence, or pay additional registration fees. This is known as automatic deemed registration (ADR).

This is to allow interstate workers to perform similar duties in SA as they would in their home State or Territory on a short-term basis. Before you can commence working in South Australia under ADR, you must notify the EPA by completing the [online form](#). Recognition does not apply for persons whose principal place of residence/ work is in SA.

### Dental radiography – useful resources:

- [Practical-Guide-to-Dental-Radiology-Doc.aspx \(ada.org.au\)](#)
- Regulatory requirements: [Radiation Protection Series No. 10 | ARPANSA](#)

**Information, fees and license application forms:** (EPA) South Australia

Email: [EPARadiationProtectionBranch@sa.gov.au](mailto:EPARadiationProtectionBranch@sa.gov.au)

Web: [Radiation licensing | EPA](#)

## 2. Practice/Business Owners: License To Possess a Radiation Source

Business owners must obtain a Licence to Possess a Radiation Source from the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) in South Australia: [EPA :: Environment Protection Authority South Australia \(elf.sa.gov.au\)](http://elf.sa.gov.au)

NB: A radiation management plan (RMP) must be submitted as part of an application for a Licence to Possess a Radiation Source. **SEE ADA SA website for TEMPLATE Radiation Management Plan.**

The Licence to possess needs to be renewed every year - the EPA will send owners a renewal reminder notice via email.

### 2a. Compliance testing of dental x-ray apparatus

Compliance testing must be done at the initial installation of the apparatus and, commencing 1 February 2026, periodically every five (5) years and after any major repair which could affect radiation safety.

From February 2026, with the introduction of cyclic testing, annual servicing will no longer be a requirement.

### 3. Equipment Registration with the EPA:

**New practices/installations:** All x-ray apparatus must be registered with the EPA prior to the completion of installation and must be passed as compliant prior to clinical use. During a two-year transition phase (Feb 2023-Feb 2025), the EPA may exercise discretion and approve clinical use of tested (non-compliant apparatus) for a 60 day period during which faults are being rectified.

NB: Compliance verification of all X-ray apparatus used for dental radiography must be carried out by an EPA-accredited tester in order to register.

Test Protocols and Certificates of Compliance: [Test Protocols and Certificates of Compliance | EPA](#)

Registration of radiation sources including x-ray apparatus must be renewed annually from the date of first registration. When EPA receives registration application, they register the source and a Registration Certificate is issued. The 12 month renewal period begins from that date of initial registration. The EPA sends a registration renewal notice annually.

### 4. Registered Dental Practitioners/Dental Assistants: License To Use/Operate:

Dental Board of Australia/AHPRA-registered Dental Practitioners and non-registered Dental Workers such as Dental Assistants who have undertaken the nationally-mandated units of study required for dental radiography licensing must hold a Licence to Operate an Ionising Radiation Apparatus (x-ray equipment) issued by the EPA in order to produce radiographic images in South Australia.

This Licence to Operate an Ionising Radiation Apparatus will allow the licensed Dentist, Hygienist, Dental Therapist, Oral Health Therapist, Prosthetist or Dental Assistant to produce radiographic images within their designated Scope of Practice and depending on the type of licence held including:

- Intra-oral views such as periapical, bitewing and occlusal views.
- Extra-oral views such as panoramic views (OPG) and lateral cephalometric radiographs

- Hand-wrist radiographs

To be licensed to operate a Cone Beam Volumetric Tomography (CBVT) unit, Dentists/Specialists and other Dental Practitioners must pass a licensing exam administered or approved by the EPA.

The types of images for which the Practitioner or Dental Assistant is licensed to produce are listed on the individuals Licence.

A License to Operate an Ionising Radiation Apparatus is valid for a period of one year. The EPA will send a reminder notice to applicants when renewal is due.

#### **5. Personal Radiation Monitoring Devices (PRMDs):**

Personal monitoring devices: (radiation badges) are NOT required for routine intra-oral dental radiology only (eg: BWS, Pas). However, practitioners taking OPG's, Lateral Cephs, CBVT, should wear a monitoring device.

#### **6. Sale/Disposal of apparatus:**

If the ionising radiation apparatus has been sold or decommissioned, a notification by owner of sale/disposal of an x-ray apparatus (as per Regulation 41) must be completed and emailed to the EPA within 14 days of the sale or disposal. The notification can be found on the EPA website at: [https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/files/15501\\_27b\\_apparatus\\_disposal-decommission.pdf](https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/files/15501_27b_apparatus_disposal-decommission.pdf)

- X-ray unit is to be disposed of in a way to ensure it cannot be reassembled for use or sold when no longer required.

#### **7. Dental radiography – useful resources:**

- [Practical-Guide-to-Dental-Radiology-Doc.aspx \(ada.org.au\)](#)
- Regulatory requirements: [Radiation Protection Series No. 10 | ARPANSA](#)

#### **Information, fees and license application forms:**

Email: [EPARadiationProtectionBranch@sa.gov.au](mailto:EPARadiationProtectionBranch@sa.gov.au)

Web: [Radiation licensing | EPA](#)