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Overview

Minnesota Rules, chapter 4730 governs the use of ionizing radiation in order to protect health and safety. Parts 4732.0305 and 4732.0306 prohibit the use of handheld diagnostic imaging devices and handheld therapy units. Other rules prohibit specific portions of radiographic systems from being hand-held during use. This bill allows the use of handheld portable x-ray systems that have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration, have a five-year use history, and utilize a backscatter shield that meets the requirements of this section.

Section

1 Authorization to use certain handheld portable x-ray systems. Adds § 144.1215. Allows the use of handheld portable x-ray systems that meet the requirements of this section.

Subd. 1. Definition; handheld portable x-ray system. Defines handheld portable x-ray system.

Subd. 2. Use authorized. Allows a facility to use a handheld portable x-ray system if the system has been approved by the FDA and is being used consistent with that approval; has at least five years of use history; and uses a backscatter shield that meets the listed requirements. Prohibits use of the system if its backscatter shield is broken or not permanently affixed to the system. Prohibits the commissioner from limiting the use of handheld systems to situations when it is impractical to transfer a patient to a stationary system. Allows the system's tube housing and position-indicating device to be handheld during exposure.

Section

Subd. 3. Training required; training records. Requires persons using handheld systems to be trained in their use, and requires facilities to maintain training records and make them available to the commissioner for review.

Subd. 4. Exemptions from certain shielding requirements. Exempts a facility at which a handheld system is used from the following requirements in Minnesota Rules: shielding requirements; requirements for the location of the x-ray console or use of a protective barrier; and a requirement for visual indication from an operator's protected position.