Radiation Safety Series

4**C**

Radionuclide Safety Reference Sheet Carbon-14



Beta Energy: 49 keV average (156 keV max) Range in Air: 10 inches Range in Lucite: 0.010 inches Shielding: None required (mCi quanitites external radiation hazard)

Critical Organ: Fat tissue, bone Exposure Routes: inhalation, ingestion, skin absorptionDosimetry¹: None required Bioassay:¹ Urine²

Detection & Measurement GM Pancake: Low efficiency (~3%) Liquid Scintillation Counting—smear test *recommended*

Half Life Physical: 5730 years Biological: 12 days Effective: 12 days (bound) 40 days (unbound) **Special Precautions:**

▲ ¹⁴C compounds may penetrate gloves and be absorbed by skin—

- \blacktriangle handle such materials remotely;
- ▲ use double gloves;
- ▲ change external gloves frequently;
- ▲ Shielding: None required (mCi quantities
 - external radiation hazard);
- ▲ Wipe or smear work areas to monitor for contamination;
- A Perform self-survey/hand frisking very slowly.

Personal Protective Equipment



Disposal: Segregate from <90 day T $_{\frac{1}{2}}$ waste. Do not comingle with 'decay in storage' wastes.

1. Dosimetry and bioassay are not required for <5 mCi monthly $^{14}\!C$ use.

2. Urine bioassay may be required after any accident/incident where intake is suspected.