

CUSTOMER STATEMENT

Wednesday, 26 June 2019

Statement on nuclear medicine production

On Friday 21 June, contamination was detected on the outside of a container holding 42 millilitres of Mo-99 in the new Mo-99 Manufacturing Facility - ANSTO Nuclear Medicine (ANM). This is where bulk Mo-99 is manufactured before going to Building 23 Health Products production facility to be processed and dispatched.

Three ANSTO workers were involved and initial indications are that two received a radiation dose above the statutory limit. The estimated radiation dose will be confirmed in coming weeks. The workers involved have returned to work and ANSTO is providing them with all of the necessary support.

ANSTO's supply of Mo-99 has not been interrupted at this time. Upon this incident occurring, Building 54 (ANSTO's previous Mo-99 manufacturing facility) was re-started to secure supply. This has ensured an uninterrupted supply of Gentech® Tc-99m generators to all Australian hospitals and clinics.

ANSTO will restart ANM once a full investigation has been completed, and any necessary changes are made to prevent a recurrence. Safety is our top priority, and we are keeping the nuclear regulator, ARPANSA, up-to-date on the investigation.

Our operations and maintenance teams are working with ARPANSA to determine how long the operation of Building 54 is possible. ANSTO is making every effort to ensure on-going supply of Mo-99, however there remains a risk that supply could be temporarily disrupted if the above plans are not successful. In line with established protocols, if there were to be a disruption to Mo-99 supplies, Australian customers would be prioritised.

This work remains underway, and ANSTO is scheduled to meet with ARPANSA again on Thursday 27 June. Following this meeting, we will be in a position to provide a further update to the Australian Nuclear Medicine community detailing plans moving forward.

Contact ANSTO directly on 1800 251 572 for more information.