

***Mini-Carm Fluoro Operation 2***

There seems to be continuing confusion about the rules regarding the use of mini-Carms because some of the sales personnel are telling the physicians and radiology staff that (1) you do not need to have any special permit or license to operate the units, and (2) you do not need to wear lead aprons or film badges. Lets go through the real rules slowly and clearly: **Title 17 does not make any distinction between either the size or the type of fluoro unit. Therefore:**

- 1. All fluoroscopy equipment of any kind whatsoever and of any size whatsoever must be operated only by (1) physicians who hold a valid “Operator and Supervisor License” or by (2) a technologist who holds a valid “Fluoroscopy Permit” and who is operating under the direction of a physician who holds a valid “Operator and Supervisor License” and,**
- 2. All personnel operating or attending any fluoroscopy equipment must wear protective apparel and must have a film badge.**

(It is unlikely that DHS would cite for failure to wear an apron or a badge while operating a mini-Carm, but from a liability stand-point, it is wise for the facility to require aprons and badges.)

The only thing that DHS has relaxed is the requirement for the weekly fluoro phantom tests: you do not need to perform the weekly fluoro phantom test for the mini-Carms with a three (3) inch image intensifier. But be careful because even here there is room for misunderstanding: some of the new “mini-carms” have a six (6) inch image intensifier and these are NOT exempt from the weekly fluoro phantom testing.