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CHECKLIST

Radiation Type Identification Checklist

- [ ] Measure the source at your normal detector distance and record the count rate
- [ ] Insert paper between source and detector—if counts drop to near zero, alpha is present
- [ ] Remove paper and insert thin aluminium—a sharp drop indicates beta radiation
- [ ] Measure again at double the distance—if reading falls to one quarter, gamma dominates
- [ ] Confirm your detector has a thin window if alpha detection is needed
- [ ] Subtract background count rate from all source measurements
- [ ] Inspect detector window for damage before each use
- [ ] Check battery level and carry spares when working in the field
- [ ] Contact a radiation protection advisor for unidentified sources or high readings

- [ ] Use personal dosimeters if you work regularly with radiation sources