



Department of Community Services
Radon Testing Results
April 2007

The Department of Community Services has been advised that the national guideline for radon in the indoor air of dwellings may soon be lowered from 800 to 200 Becquerels per cubic metre (Bq/m³). In anticipation of this, regional Housing Authorities have started to test public housing for radon, beginning with those buildings located in areas of the province with higher levels of uranium that occur naturally. All public housing will be tested within the next three to five years.

We have completed 191 tests in Halifax Regional Municipality, Cape Breton and Lunenburg County. The majority (82%) of these buildings are within the new proposed guidelines. Locations that have tested higher than 200 becquerels do not pose a short-term risk, but action will be taken to address the radon levels in public housing.

The results have been grouped together to protect the privacy of tenants.

Total Number of Results Received	191
Number of results less than 200	157
Number of results greater or equal to 200 and less than 500	26
Number of results greater than or equal to 500 and less than 800	4
Number of results greater than 800	4

Future Action:

200 Bq/m³ or less: No further action is necessary at this time.

200-500 Bq/m³: Within the current guidelines, but above the proposed guideline - further testing will be done over a longer period during the heating season.

500+ Bq/m³: Further testing within the next few weeks to confirm the radon levels and take appropriate action.