

**RULES
OF
THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH**

**CHAPTER 0400-20-14
FUSION**

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0400-20-14-.01 PURPOSE.

This chapter establishes requirements for the registration and/or licensing of fusion machines, fusion processes, and fusion-related activities.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.02 SCOPE.

Except as otherwise specifically provided, this chapter applies to persons or entities in possession or operation of a fusion machine. A specific license may also be required for the use, possession, or operation of a fusion machine.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.03 DEFINITIONS.

As used in this chapter, these terms have the definitions set forth below. (For additional definitions see Rules 0400-20-04-.04, 0400-02-05-.32, 0400-20-06-.03, 0400-20-07-.05, 0400-20-08-.03, 0400-20-09-.03, 0400-20-11-.03, 0400-20-12-.03, and 0400-20-13-.01.)

- (1) "Fusion" means a reaction in which at least one heavier, more stable nucleus is produced from two lighter, less stable nuclei.
- (2) "Fusion machine" means a machine that is capable of:

(Rule 0400-20-14-.03, continued)

- (a) Transforming atomic nuclei, through fusion processes, into different elements, isotopes, or other particles; and
 - (b) Directly capturing and using the resultant products, including particles, heat, or other electromagnetic radiation.
- (3) "Fusion machine operator" means a person who manipulates the controls of a fusion machine and who is responsible to the registrant or licensee for assuring compliance with the requirements of this chapter and all Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License conditions during operation of the fusion machine.
- (4) "Fusion-related event" means an incident that meets the criteria in paragraphs (1) and (2) of Rule 0400-20-05-.141.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.04 FEES.

- (1) Persons engaged in the business of utilizing fusion machines shall pay an initial non-refundable application filing fee, due at the time of application filing.
- (a) The initial application filing fee shall be \$50,000 for the initial Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License review.
 - (b) The amount of the annual fee shall be the greater of \$5,000 or the actual Division expenses that arise from licensing, inspection, emergency planning and implementation, and environmental surveillance activities as determined by the Division.
- (2) The fee required by subparagraphs (1)(a) and (b) of this rule must be made payable to the Division of Radiological Health by check, or other payment method acceptable to the Division, made payable to "Treasurer State of Tennessee."

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 11-1-101, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; 68-202-201, et seq.; and 68-203-101, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.05 FINANCIAL ASSURANCE.

Persons or entities in possession or operation of a fusion machine must comply with the financial assurance requirements of Rule 0400-20-10-.12.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.06 REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION.

- (1) No person shall activate a fusion machine until the registration has been certified by the Division.
- (2) Application for a Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License shall be made to the Division as follows:
- (a) Application for Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License shall be filed on a form prescribed by the Division.

(Rule 0400-20-14-.06, continued)

- (b) The Division may at any time after the filing of the original application or before the expiration of the Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License require further information to enable the Division to determine whether certification should be granted, denied, suspended, modified, or revoked.
- (c) Each application shall be signed by a person authorized to act for and on behalf of the applicant.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.07 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFIED FUSION MACHINE REGISTRATION AND/OR LICENSE.

A registration will be certified if the Division determines that:

- (1) The applicant has personnel to use the fusion machine for the requested purposes and to handle any associated radioactive material in such a manner as to protect public health, public safety, and property;
- (2) The applicant's proposed equipment, facilities, and procedures will protect the public health, public safety, and property;
- (3) The applicant has a method to retrain and test fusion machine operators and all other associated personnel at least annually to assure continued competency; and
- (4) The applicant satisfies all applicable requirements of these regulations.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.08 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFIED FUSION MACHINE REGISTRATION AND/OR LICENSE.

- (1) In addition to the requirements of Rule 0400-20-14-.07, a Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License for a fusion machine that is to be used in research and development or energy production will be issued only if:
 - (a) The applicant has appointed a radiological safety officer who will advise and assist on radiological safety problems; and
 - (b) The applicant has established a radiation safety committee (composed of the radiological safety officer and one or more individuals trained or experienced in the safe use of fusion machines) that will review and approve, in advance, proposals for such use.
- (2) An application for a specific Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License filed under this rule for a fusion machine must include the following information:
 - (a) A general description of the fusion machine;
 - (b) A summary of the radiation safety aspects of the written operating and emergency procedures, including, as applicable:
 - 1. (i) A description with diagram(s) of the radiation protection measures to be employed for the fusion machine and its radioactive fuel, including all interlocks, access control systems, shielding, and radiation monitors;

(Rule 0400-20-14-.08, continued)

- (ii) A description of the radioactive material handling procedures and inventory control procedures; and
 - (iii) A description of any other components or systems used to control radiation and radioactive material; or
2. As an alternative to part 1. of this subparagraph, a description of any aspects of the fusion machine relevant to radiation safety that differ from the information listed in part 1. of this subparagraph, and an explanation for how they ensure the fusion machine can be operated safely;
- (c) A description of the applicant's organizational structure that describes the radiation safety responsibilities, authorities, and qualifications;
 - (d) A description of training related to the fusion machine and radiation protection provided to personnel;
 - (e) A description of the plan for inspection and maintenance of the fusion machine;
 - (f) A description of the methodology for radioactive material inventory; and
 - (g) Any other information requested by the Division to enable the Division to evaluate whether the fusion machine can be operated safely.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.09 ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFIED FUSION MACHINE REGISTRATION AND/OR LICENSE.

- (1) Upon a determination that an application meets the applicable requirements of Chapters 0400-20-04 through 0400-20-13, the Division will issue a Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License authorizing the proposed activity.
- (2) The Division may incorporate in any Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License at the time of issuance, or thereafter by such additional provision with respect to the registrant's machine as it deems appropriate or necessary in order to:
 - (a) Protect public health, public safety, and property; and
 - (b) Require reports and the keeping of records, as may be necessary to evaluate activities conducted under the Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.10 SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A CERTIFIED FUSION MACHINE REGISTRATION AND/OR LICENSE.

- (1) Certified Registrations issued pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Division.
- (2) Any person registered by the Division pursuant to this chapter shall confine the use and possession of the fusion machine to the locations and purposes authorized in the Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License.

(Rule 0400-20-14-.10, continued)

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.11 EXPIRATION OF A CERTIFIED FUSION MACHINE REGISTRATION AND/OR LICENSE.

The expiration of a Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/to License is subject to the requirements in Rule 0400-20-10-.17.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.12 RENEWAL OF A CERTIFIED FUSION MACHINE REGISTRATION AND/OR LICENSE.

- (1) A request for renewal of a Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License shall be filed in accordance with paragraph (2) of Rule 0400-20-14-.06.
- (2) If a registrant, not less than 30 days prior to expiration of the registrant's existing Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License, has filed a complete request in proper form for a renewed Registration authorizing the same activities, the existing Certified Registration and/or License shall not expire until the request has been finally determined by the Division.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.13 AMENDMENT OF A CERTIFIED FUSION MACHINE REGISTRATION AND/OR LICENSE AT THE REQUEST OF THE REGISTRANT OR LICENSEE.

Requests for amendment of a Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License shall be filed in accordance with paragraph (2) of Rule 0400-20-14-.06 and shall specify the manner in which the registrant desires the Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License to be amended and the grounds for such amendment.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.14 DIVISION ACTION ON REQUEST TO RENEW OR AMEND.

Upon a request by a registrant to renew or amend the registrant's Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License, the Division will consider requirements, including but not limited to Rules 0400-20-14-.07 and 0400-20-14-.08 as applicable.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.15 INALIENABILITY OF CERTIFIED FUSION MACHINE REGISTRATIONS AND/OR LICENSES.

No Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License issued or granted under this chapter and no right to utilize a fusion machine granted by any Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License issued pursuant to this chapter shall be transferred, assigned, or in any manner disposed of, either voluntarily, or involuntarily, directly, or indirectly, through transfer of control of any Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License to any persons unless the Division has found that the transfer, assignment or disposal is in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and has given its consent in writing.

(Rule 0400-20-14-.15, continued)

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.16 MODIFICATION, REVOCATION, AND TERMINATION OF A CERTIFIED FUSION MACHINE REGISTRATION AND/OR LICENSE.

- (1) A Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License is subject to amendment, revision, or modification or may be suspended or revoked by reason of amendments to T.C.A §§ 68-202-201 to -217, or by reason of rules or regulations issued by the Division.
- (2) Any Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License may be revoked, suspended, or modified, in whole or part, for any material false statement in the application or in any statement of fact required under provisions of T.C.A. §§ 68-202-201 to -217, or because of conditions revealed by such application or statement of fact of any report, records, or inspection or other means that would warrant the Division to refuse to grant a Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License on an original application, or for violation of, or failure to observe any of the terms and conditions of T.C.A. §§ 68-202-201 to -217, or of the Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License or of any rule or regulation of the Division. This action will be taken pursuant to T.C.A. Title 68, Chapter 202.
- (3) The Division may terminate a Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License upon written request submitted by the registrant to the Division.
- (4) Any action to suspend, revoke, or terminate a license or registration by the Division will be conducted pursuant to T.C.A. § 4-5-320.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.17 RECORDS.

In addition to the records required by Chapters 0400-20-04 through 0400-20-08 and Chapters 0400-20-10 through 0400-20-12, each Registrant and/or Licensee shall maintain records of any tests or surveys required by this chapter until termination of the Registration and/or License.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.18 GENERAL SAFETY PROVISIONS.

- (1) The Division may grant a written exemption from specific requirements of this chapter if the applicant or registrant demonstrates, to the Division's satisfaction, achievement of radiation protection, through other means, equivalent to that required by Chapters 0400-20-04 through 0400-20-08 or Chapters 0400-20-10 through 0400-20-12.
- (2) Each Registrant and/or Licensee shall provide personnel monitoring devices calibrated for the radiations and energies of radiation produced by the fusion machine and used as required by Rules 0400-20-05-.70 and 0400-20-05-.71.
- (3) Each installation shall be provided with such primary barriers and/or secondary barriers as are necessary to assure compliance with Rules 0400-20-05-.50, 0400-20-05-.55, 0400-20-05-.56, and 0400-20-05-.60.
- (4) Controls and safety devices.

(Rule 0400-20-14-.18, continued)

- (a) Only the fusion machine operator at the control panel shall be able to activate a fusion machine to create a radiation field in any area in which an individual could receive a dose in excess of two millirems per hour.
- (b) All entrances into a target room or other high radiation areas shall be provided with interlocks.
- (c) The interlock system and the emergency cut-off shall be separate electrical circuits and/or mechanical systems.
- (d) When any interlock is interrupted, broken, or tripped, either the fusion machine shall shut off automatically or the radiation level within the room will be reduced to an average of not more than two millirems per hour and a maximum of 10 millirems per hour at a distance of one meter in any direction from any accessible surface of the fusion machine system. After shut-off or reduction in output, it shall be possible to restore the fusion machine to full operation only from the control panel. Radiation levels produced by radioactive materials shall not be considered as the radiation levels to be reduced by such controls.
- (e) Interlocks shall not be used to shut off the fusion machine except in an emergency or during testing.
- (f) Emergency shut-off switches shall be located within the high radiation areas so as to be accessible to individuals therein within the warning period. These switches and their mode of operation shall be identified by a conspicuously posted sign adjacent to the switch. These switches shall be capable of automatically causing the fusion machine to either shut off or reduce the radiation level to an average of not more than two millirems per hour and a maximum of 10 millirems per hour at a distance of one meter in any direction from any accessible surface of the fusion machine system. These shut-off switches shall include a manual reset at each switch, which must be reset at the switch before the fusion machine may be restarted by the fusion machine operator at the control panel. Radiation levels produced by radioactive material shall not be considered as the radiation levels to be reduced by such control.
- (g) All locations designated as high radiation areas shall be equipped with visual flashing or rotating warning lights that operate when, and only when, radiation is being produced. Each entrance to such area shall have a visual warning device, which need not be flashing or rotating, but operates when, and only when radiation is being produced.
- (h) Each high radiation area shall have an audible warning device which shall be activated for at least five seconds prior to the possible creation of such high radiation area. Following the activation of the audible warning device, there shall be a delay of not less than 30 seconds before the high radiation area may be produced. Such warning device shall be discernible in all high radiation and radiation areas.
- (i) All meters and controls on the fusion machine control console shall be identified and discernible.
- (j) The fusion machine control panel shall be provided with a locking device to prevent use by unauthorized individuals. Such locking device shall, when locked, make the fusion machine incapable of creating a radiation field in any areas in which an individual could receive a dose in excess of two millirems per hour.
- (k) There shall be available at each facility portable radiation monitoring equipment that is operable and has been calibrated for the radiations being produced by the facility. Such equipment shall be tested for operation and calibrated at intervals not to exceed three

(Rule 0400-20-14-.18, continued)

months and after each instrument servicing and repair. A note shall be attached to each instrument showing the latest calibration date. Records of calibration shall be maintained for inspection by the Division.

- (l) There shall be present at the control panel and at entrances to all high radiation areas a device that shall give a continuous indication of the radiation levels present in the target or areas.
 - (m) Electrical circuit diagrams of the fusion machine and the associated interlock systems shall be kept current and on file at each fusion machine facility.
 - (n) All high radiation areas shall be so constructed that persons within the area may at all times be able to escape.
- (5) Operation.
- (a) Only fusion machine operators qualified as required under Rule 0400-20-14-.19 shall be allowed to unlock and operate the control panel of a fusion machine.
 - (b) Interlocks may be bypassed only to test, adjust, maintain, and/or rearrange equipment provided a conspicuous indication of such condition is made at the control panel. This subparagraph does not authorize the operation of a fusion machine with the high radiation area warning devices or emergency shut off switches incapable of proper operation.
 - (c) Activities in which interlocks are bypassed as permitted under subparagraph (b) of this paragraph shall:
 1. Only be authorized by the radiation safety officer;
 2. Only be performed for a specific time;
 3. Be recorded showing the date, length of time bypassed, reason for bypassing, and signed by the individual installing and removing the bypass. These records shall be maintained for inspection by the Division; and
 4. Be performed at low power and current, if possible.
 - (d) No individual shall be permitted to enter an area, the access of which is controlled by interlocks, while such interlocks are bypassed, as permitted in subparagraph (b) of this paragraph, unless such individual is utilizing personnel monitoring equipment that will give an audible indication when a dose rate of 15 millirems per hour is exceeded. The personnel monitoring equipment referred to in this paragraph is in addition to that required elsewhere in these rules. Calibration requirements of subparagraph (4)(k) of Rule 0400-20-09-.17 shall also apply to such personnel monitoring equipment.
 - (e) The fusion machine operator shall have at the control panel a copy of the operating and emergency procedures.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.19 LIMITATIONS.

No Registrant and/or Licensee shall permit any person to act as a fusion machine operator as defined in Rule 0400-20-14-.03 until such person has:

(Rule 0400-20-14-.19, continued)

- (1) Been instructed in the subjects listed in Rule 0400-20-14-.22;
- (2) Received copies of and instruction in the applicable portions of these rules, a copy of the facility's Certified Fusion Machine Registration and/or License, and the Registrant's and/or Licensee's operating and emergency procedures; and
- (3) Physically demonstrated competence to use the fusion machine, related equipment, and survey instruments that will be employed in the fusion machine operator's assignment.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.20 OPERATING AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.

The Registrant's and/or Licensee's operating and emergency procedures shall include instructions in at the least the following:

- (1) The use of the fusion machine in such a manner that no person will be exposed to radiation doses in excess of the limits established in Chapter 0400-20-05;
- (2) Methods and occasions for conducting surveys;
- (3) Methods for controlling access to high radiation areas;
- (4) Methods and occasions for locking the control panel of the fusion machine;
- (5) Personnel monitoring and the use of personnel monitoring equipment;
- (6) Methods for minimizing exposure of individuals in the event of an accident;
- (7) Notification procedures in the event of an accident; and
- (8) The maintenance of records.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.21 TESTS AND SURVEYS.

Each Registrant and/or Licensee shall:

- (1) Test all safety and warning devices including interlocks at intervals not to exceed three months to determine that they are functioning properly;
- (2) In conjunction with initial operation and after changes have been made in shielding, operating parameters, equipment, or occupancy of adjacent areas, make a survey as required in Rule 0400-20-05-.70;
- (3) Test any interlock that has been bypassed or otherwise prevented from operation, when such interlock is returned to use, to determine if it is functioning properly; and
- (4) Have a survey made of each radiation area upon the initial entry by personnel into these areas following the operation of the fusion machine. The Registrant and/or Licensee shall not be required to make a record of the survey required by this paragraph.

(Rule 0400-20-14-.21, continued)

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.22 MINIMUM SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED IN TRAINING FUSION MACHINE OPERATORS.

Fusion machine operators must receive training on the following subjects:

- (1) Fundamentals of radiation safety:
 - (a) Characteristics of radiation;
 - (b) Units of radiation dose and exposure and quantity of radioactivity;
 - (c) Biological effects of radiation; and
 - (d) Methods of controlling radiation dose and exposure;
 1. Working time;
 2. Working distance; and
 3. Shielding;
- (2) Radiation detection instrumentation to be used:
 - (a) Use of radiation survey instruments:
 1. Operation;
 2. Calibration; and
 3. Limitations;
 - (b) Survey techniques:
 1. Methods of surveys; and
 2. Records that must be made and retained; and
 - (c) Use of personnel monitoring equipment;
- (3) Operation and control of fusion machines;
- (4) The requirements of state rules; and
- (5) The registrant's written operating and emergency procedures.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.23 INSPECTIONS.

Any fusion facilities or fusion activities shall be inspected on an annual basis or as determined by the Division.

(Rule 0400-20-14-.23, continued)

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.

0400-20-14-.24 HEALTH AND SAFETY.

Any licensee or registrant subject to this chapter shall follow any applicable radiation protection rules set forth in Chapters 0400-20-04, 0400-20-05, and 0400-20-14.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 4-5-201, et seq.; 68-202-101, et seq.; and 68-202-201, et seq. **Administrative History:** New rules filed March 11, 2026; effective June 9, 2026.