www.JICReadiness.com

Q: Can You Buy a Quality Used Civil Defense Radiation Detection Survey Meter?

A: Civil Defense radiation detection survey meters used to come on the market via very infrequent, but sometimes very large, FEMA auctions ever since the Federal government, in the 1st Bush and then Clinton administration, de-funded the FEMA/state partnerships that had previously maintained our national nuclear Civil Defense program. Now most government auctions are by states, rather than FEMA. They are most often bid on by surplus wholesalers, but sometimes by other unrelated businesses and even individuals hoping to turn them for a quick profit. They buy them by the pallet load lots, perhaps 40-80 pallets per lot and as many as a dozen lots or more in any one auction. But, of course, these auctions can be bigger or smaller, too.
Once acquired they are then typically sold in smaller lots to other wholesalers and any business that might have a potential customer base interested in them retail, such as Army/Navy surplus stores, preparedness companies and internet based companies catering to the same type clientele.

You can check any of the above, or search the internet ('Geiger counter' is a good search term), and you'll always find some offered at www.ebay.com. **Our supplier KI4U only offers *calibrated* Civil Defense meters. Please see the document "KI4U Approach & Commitment" for the quality control steps they take in servicing and calibrating Radiation Detection Meters. KI4U is a licensed Radiation Detection Equipment Laboratory.**

Most all these potential outlets are interested in moving them out with as little additional input (time/money/energy) as is possible. While that's understandable business-wise, you'll need to be aware of what these meters are, and are not, likely capable of when you consider getting yours, especially when they tell you that *"it works"*, and that's what you are relying upon.

As of August, 2010 our supplier KI4U has successfully calibrated and certified literally over 25,000 of the 100,000+ Civil Defense meters and dosimeters they acquired from the Federal Depot in 2001, along with countless hundreds more from state and municipal agencies and individuals who have sent theirs into them for calibration. They are the only private calibration lab in the country that specializes in re-certifying and calibrating all the Civil Defense meters and dosimeters.

This information is priceless, and should be well understood by anybody considering buying even just one radiation detector unit as a serious nuclear radiation detection instrument. (Of course, if you only want one as a 'cold war relic' conversational piece for the mantle, or as a doorstop, you can disregard the following and simply shop for the cheapest and neatest looking available.)

Typically, amongst surplus meters the public might attain from various sources, KI4U will only see about 65% that are functioning sufficiently enough to even have calibration attempted on them without some maintenance or repair work first.

Many of these meters will actually pass the basic 'circuit check' test, but still require essential repair work before calibrating.

Also, <u>without exception</u>, all surplus Civil Defense meters, whether they needed some repair work first or not before attempting to be calibrated, still had to have that calibration adjustment and fine-tuning to bring them back into even the minimum required accuracy specified to be certified.

What this all means to you in selecting and acquiring a Civil Defense radiation detector survey meter is that when the seller says simply *"It works."* or *"It passed the circuit check test."*, they likely have only dropped a couple batteries in it and performed the 'circuit check' to arrive at those conclusions. And, it's 35/65, those meters might not be functioning sufficiently enough for them to even be later calibrated... without repair work first. And, even less likely that you'd be getting a functioning meter whose last calibration, who knows when, was still holding accurately enough that you didn't need to have the calibration re-done again. (Also, you won't know how well it's been handled or stored since that last calibration either.) And, you will never know, unless and until you then get it re-calibrated yourself.

<u>Bottom Line</u>: If you want/need a radiation detector meter you can have complete confidence in that it will perform reliably and accurately when it'll count the most, then you've either got to...

Acquire a meter that was recently successfully calibrated

...or...

Buy an untested surplus meter and send it off to a qualified calibration certification lab

...or...

Buy a newly manufactured high-range survey meter for $1,000+.