

## A whale of a job by MarShield!



In August we received a call from a general contractor located in the State of New York. They informed us they were working on a project for the New York Aquarium that required a custom built Radiation Barrier for the aquatic animal medical section of the facility.

A radiation barrier is required to prevent exposure of medical staff to secondary radiation from diagnostic equipment used in their examination room. It is a vital safety measure designed to protect doctors, nurses and other medical personnel when X-ray devices operate around the treatment of marine life.

The initial sketch from the contractor requested an “L” shaped barrier, with one wall measuring 4’ 6” wide by 7’0” high and the other wall, connecting at 90 degrees, measuring 3’8” wide by 7’0” high. Both panels required clear leaded acrylic viewing windows on the upper 4’ of each panel. The contractor had also requested the leaded acrylic to be 1/8” lead equivalency and the bottom solid panels to incorporate 1/8” lead.

We contacted the contractor after reviewing their sketch, to ensure that they actually needed 1/8” lead in the barrier. We advised them that it was very unusual and that it would add quite a bit more weight to the barrier compared to a standard model while substantially increasing their cost. It would have meant an alteration to the standard design to ensure that we incorporated stronger bracing; it is very uncommon to have more than 1/16” lead equivalency in barriers.

The contractor investigated their customer requirements and agreed that 1/8” L.E. was more shielding than needed and advised us that 1/16” L.E. would be acceptable. They were very gracious that we caught this unnecessary lead thickness and were appreciative that we saved them increased costs.

We also found that the end user would be hosing down and cleansing the floor after each procedure and needed to avoid the opportunity of rust or contamination. The contractor asked for a modification to the standard model to have the floor channels of the barrier be fabricated from #316 stainless steel due to the exposure of salt water. With the opportunity to customize any of our units, it was an easy design change to meet.

MarShield is able to step up to the plate when a standard model doesn’t meet your application. Custom radiation solutions are what MarShield has built their reputation on. With their quality assessment and expertise, you will always receive a cost effective solution resulting in a superior product to meet or exceed your needs.

If you feel like a fish out of water when it comes to challenging, custom radiation solutions, MarShield’s integrity, precision, expertise and quality assessment means you’ll always get a whale of a deal.