

Jornadas LIP 2020 (Braga)

Radon exhalation from building materials



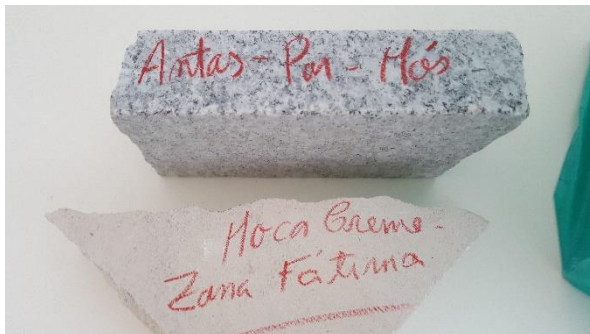
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Radon concentration can reach **high levels** in dwellings depending **not only** on the building material used like concrete, bricks, phosphogypsum or granite, but also on **natural materials** incorporated in structural elements or decorative materials.



Aim

The main purpose of this project is to **measure** the radon **specific activity** and **calculate** the radon **mass exhalation rate** from granite samples, used for countertops and fireplaces, with **passive and active measuring technique**.



Method

Active measurements, of radon concentration, were performed with the **RAD7** DURRIDGE detector and the passive with CR-39 alpha track detectors.



RAD7 DURRIDGE detector



CR-39 alpha track detectors

We used a sealed-can technique for measuring radon exhaled from granite samples: **coated** (with different coatings used over natural rock either to improve waterproofness or indoor performance, namely comfort and desegregation of the natural rock limiting particle loss) and **non-coated**.



a) RAD7 detector with a closed loop arrangement.



b) CR-39 alpha-particle sensitive track detector.

Conclusions

- ✓ Preliminary results show that radon mass exhalation rates, from the granitic samples analyzed, have relatively low values.
- ✓ From the obtained results we can conclude that the mass exhalation rate is reduced by a factor between 3 or 4 for the coated samples.

