



International Radiation Protection Association

2016 December 09

Outcome from the IAEA Radiation Safety Standards Committee (RASSC) Meeting, November 2016

It is IRPA's intention to keep the Associate Societies, and through them the individual members, better informed on developments at an international level which could have an impact on the profession. This note continues our series of feedback information on developments in the international organisations.

In the case of the documents discussed at RASSC (see attached list), any issues should generally be addressed through your relevant member state authority. However, if you believe that there should be more widespread interest from the profession on any particular document or issue, then please advise the IRPA Executive Officer [lequen@irpa.net].

Work will continue on further guidance relating to the application of clearance and exemption (see DS499/500 in the attachment), covering exemption values for the trade of commodities and practical guidance for the implementation of clearance processes. This is of significance to practitioners. Whilst this work will retain the existing numerical clearance values, the potential conservatism in the assessments and practical application are noted, and consideration will also be given to longer term development of revised clearance levels.

The meeting included a short seminar on Implementation of the International Basic Safety Standards. Key challenge areas have been identified through a series of regional workshops, and this has clearly influenced the IAEA programme for developing guidance material. Topics include medical exposure generally, eye lens dose, radon in homes, NORM industries and security screening and non-medical imaging. Perhaps not surprisingly, these are mainly the same key challenges for Implementing the EU BSS as well. Related issues arising in discussion included the need to improve healthcare professionals' general knowledge and understanding of radiation, and the need for better cooperation between various regulatory bodies within a country. It was interesting to note that in a quick survey of around 40 countries represented in the meeting, no country had a single regulatory body covering all relevant BSS requirements.

Roger Coates, IRPA President

Annex: Relevant Draft Documents, RASSC November 2016

Approved for Member State 120 Day Consultation

- Draft Safety Guide: Radiation Safety of Radioisotope Production Facilities (DS434)
- Draft Safety Guide: Remediation Process for Areas with Residual Radioactive Material (DS468)

Approval for Publication

- Supplementary Guidance to the Code on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources: this addresses implementation issues.

Approved for further development within IAEA

- Guidance to replace RSG-1.7 on Clearance and Exemption:
 - Application of the Concept of Exemption including Criteria for Trade in Contaminated Commodities (DS499)
 - Implementation of the Clearance Concept (DS500)
- Guidance on Radiation Safety for Use of Radiotracers: this will initially be worked up as a Safety Report, with the possibility of drafting a formal Safety Guide to be considered later.
- Guidance on Living in a Contaminated Area: this important topic is being considered for a Safety Report or a Safety Guide. It will cover justification and optimisation, plus societal, ethical and economic issues, aimed at key decision-makers (and hopefully also understandable to the public). There will be coordination with ICRP who are also working on this topic.
- Safety Report on RP in Dental Radiology: this will complement the Safety Guide on RP in Medicine
- Safety Report on Recording, Tracking, and Managing Patient Exposure Data in Medical Imaging