



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Atoms for Peace and Development

Technical Meeting

Lessons Learned from the Management of Disused High Activity Sources

VIC, Vienna, Austria

27-30 July 2020

Ref. No: EVT1905013

Information Sheet

A. Background

Radioactive sources are used widely throughout the world in medicine, industry, and agriculture. Unfortunately, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) receives reports regularly of serious injuries or deaths due to misuse or accidents involving sealed radioactive sources. The IAEA offers a wide range of guidance, activities and services to assist its Member States to improve the safety and security of their sealed radioactive sources.

Accident prevention requires a comprehensive approach to protecting and controlling sealed radioactive sources: applying standards for manufacturing and use; establishing regulatory control, physical protection, and inventories; training users on good practices and procedures; and properly disposing of the source when it is deemed disused.

Operations related to the removal of a high activity (Category 1–2) sources from a shielded position, placing it in another container, and some other operations required during conditioning of high activity sources require hot cells and very qualified personnel. The lack of approved containers fixed or mobile hot cells, and qualified personnel makes the conditioning of such

sources difficult or impossible in many Member States. Conditioning of such sources is generally limited to the preparation of sources for long term storage, or removal and transportation for recycling.

Under such circumstances, a most common resolution of these problems will be receiving international assistance, for instance from the IAEA which provides services for conditioning and removal (including repatriation) of high activity sources from the country.

B. Purpose

The Technical Meeting will review experiences in the management of disused high activity sealed radioactive sources (Category 1-2 DSRS). The management options successfully implemented, will be described and discussed. The use of mobile hot cells and other operational and management tools will also be discussed. Identification of potential gaps and to ascertain whether any additional tools are needed to support Member States in the safe and secure management of high activity DSRS is desired. The review will assist in determining whether the existing tools and technologies need to be upgraded or optimized or if the existing tools are sufficient.

C. Participants

The participants should be managers, operators, users, or regulators who could potentially deal or have actually managed high-activity DSRS.

The participants are requested to prepare briefing Power Point Presentation on the inventory and status of disused and in-use sealed radioactive sources of Category 1-2 in their country.

D. Expected Output

The meeting will focus on the exchange of information and practical experiences (described as: Project description, experience and lessons learned) regarding the following topics:

1. Establishment and maintenance of the National inventories of Category 1-2 DSRS, in use and disused;
2. Definition and implementation a National strategy for the management of Category 1-2 DSRS;
3. Decommissioning of practices/facilities where Category 1-2 were used;
4. Transport of Category 1-2 DSRS within the country;
5. Storage of Category 1-2 DSRS;
6. Removal of Category 1-2 DSRS for repatriation, recycling and/or reuse;
7. The use of mobile hot cells and other operational and management tools;

E. Working Language

The working language of the meeting will be English with no interpretation provided. All communications, abstracts and papers must be submitted in this language.

F. Venue

The assignment will commence on Monday, 27 July 2020 in VIC, Vienna, Austria.

G. Visas

Participants who need a visa for entering Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria as early as possible.

H. Organization

Official correspondence with regard to the technical aspects of the meeting should be addressed to the Scientific Secretary:

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