

International Action Plan on Occupational Radiation Protection

Progress Report 2007

Introduction

As requested by the IAPORP Steering Committee Members during their second meeting in January 2006, ILO and IAEA which are in charge of the joint secretariat of the IAPORP should provide a yearly report on the level of achievements of the Action Plan. As the meeting of the IAPORP SC could take place on a biennial base, this annual report would be more adequately considered as “Progress Report” instead of “Annual report”.

As a consequence, this issue is the first produced and both organisations, ILO and IAEA, have provided short summaries of the status of implementation of each of the 14 actions belonging to the IAPORP.

Status per 31 January 2007

***Action 1:** ILO, supported by the IAEA, to take steps to further promote the ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 115.*

The 2006 International Labour Conference in June examined a report¹ from the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR). This report include the observations of the CEACR on the applications of Convention No. 115 and Recommendation No. 114 based on information and reports submitted to the ILO in 2005 by the following countries: Czech Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, France, French Guiana (France), French Polynesia (France), Germany, Ghana, Guinea, India, Iraq, Japan, Lebanon, Martinique (France), Norway, Paraguay, Réunion (France), Sweden, United Kingdom, Uruguay.

In 2006, Barbados, Brazil, Djibouti, French Polynesia (France), Ghana, Guadeloupe (France), Guinea, Iraq, Paraguay, Spain submitted information and reports to the ILO concerning their implementations of the Radiation Protection Convention, No. 115 and its accompanying Recommendation No 114. A report² of the CEACR has been prepared and will be examined by the International Labour Conference

¹ <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc95/pdf/rep-iii-1a.pdf>

² <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc96/pdf/rep-iii-1a.pdf>

in June 2007. This report includes information on the implementation and application of Convention No. 115 and Recommendation No. 114 in the aforementioned member States. Requests have been made to the following States for information and report concerning Convention No. 115 and Recommendation No. 114: Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belize, Chile, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Mexico, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Turkey.

It has been a common practice that the IAEA is routinely consulted by the CEACR in its examination of the information and reports from the member states concerning the application of Convention No 115 and Recommendation No. 114.

The IAEA, in collaboration with the ILO, is promoting Convention No. 115 through its TC projects in its member States

***Action 2:** ILO to consider whether there is a need to review the procedures for requesting from Member States information on the implementation of ILO Convention 115 and to review the types of information being requested, so that peer reviews of occupational radiation protection programmes become more effective. Lessons learned from the application of the reporting criteria applied under the Convention on Nuclear Safety (IAEA document INFCIRC/449) may be a useful input.*

In the context of its collaboration with other international organizations on questions concerning the supervision of the application of international instruments relating to subjects of common interest, the United Nations, certain specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations with which the ILO has entered into special arrangements for this purpose, are asked whether they have information on how specific ILO Conventions are being applied. In the case of Radiation Protection Convention (No. 115), the IAEA is consulted. The current procedure for the ILO to supervise the application of Convention No. 115 works well and there has not been significant problems for the ILO to consult the IAEA in this regard.

***Action 3:** The IAEA and ILO to continue to cooperate in the development of guidance and information material that will assist in the interpretation of requirements set out in conventions and standards, and in the conduct of further IAEA intercomparison of monitoring methods for assessing occupational exposure.*

Related to the Intercomparison exercises, few were finished in 2006, namely APD, Hp(10) African (first part) and Whole Body Counter. In the pipeline for publication are the West Asia, IDEAS, APD and “neutron –gamma”-mixed field. In addition intercomparison exercises related to measurement and monitoring techniques has been included in TC projects in all regions for the current and next cycles.

***Action 4:** ILO, in consultation with the IAEA, to consider the concerns over the terminology used in the code of practice and determine the most appropriate means of addressing them.*

A preliminary review of the ILO code of practice on protection of workers against ionizing radiation has been completed by the ILO and the ILO is working closely with the IAEA in finding most appropriate means to address the issues on the terminologies used in the code.

Action 5: *ILO to make the list of contact points in its Member States and field structure available to the IAEA, which should inform the contact points about the latest available standards, guidance and advice developed at the international level and invite their representatives to relevant workshops, seminars and conferences.*

The list of contact points in the ILO member States and its field structure has been provided to the IAEA.

Action 6: *The IAEA, in consultation with ILO, to develop publicity materials in the form of posters and leaflets that target groups of workers identified as likely to benefit directly from the information provided — for example, workplace material designed to reduce the number of near misses and the risk of serious accidents.*

Publicity materials for targeted group of workers were developed and submitted to the IAORP Steering Committee for comments.

Action 7: *The IAEA to provide a focal point, on a website, where networks may be established for exchanges of information, experience and lessons learned between interested parties.*

Although no progress have been achieved on the creation of the website, the Agency has maintained its support to existing networks (RECAN) and has initiated support to new network (Asian & Pacific Region).

Action 8: *The IAEA, in consultation with ILO and drawing on the experience of trade unions and other stakeholder organizations, to prepare and disseminate suitable information materials to workers' representatives and labour educators in order to promote a better informed workforce and better understanding generally among those concerned with exposure to radiation.*

The first draft of Information Material for the labour instructors has been developed.

Action 9: *The IAEA, in consultation with professional medical bodies such as the International Society of Radiology, to critically examine existing postgraduate education and awareness-raising packages for medical professionals, including those now being produced by ICRP, to establish the need for the development of further material, to develop further material as necessary and to disseminate the material developed.*

After examining the training material and awareness material available from professional societies, such as International Society of Radiology (ISR), International Organisation of Medical Physics (IOMP), European Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ESTRO), World Federation of Nuclear Medicine & Biology (WFNMB) and International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT) and in keeping with approach of IAEA, training material on radiation protection was developed for specific audience in the form of CDs containing power point slides. Realising that there are other audiences which require training much more than classic audiences as

referred to above, training material was also developed for cardiologists and in 2006 beginning was made for other doctors using fluoroscopy (urologists, orthopaedic surgeons, gastroenterologists, gynaecologist, a group labelled as non-radiologists non-cardiologists). IAEA has taken a lead in the world in training cardiologists in radiation protection and with first ever course in September 2006 on radiation protection for non-radiologists non-cardiologists ground is set for IAEA to be at lead position in this area.

Realising the limited outreach of training courses and training material, the Agency in September 2006 declared open a new website on Radiological Protection of Patients (<http://rpop.iaea.org>). This website contains unique information on this subject not easily available from any single existing source. International professional societies are involved in the consultation process for review of contents before they are uploaded on the website.

Action 10 : *The IAEA, together with other co-sponsoring organizations, to engage with WHO in establishing the status of the draft Manual, and to encourage its finalization, publication and use as soon as possible.*

Five manuals on radiation protection in hospitals are at advanced stage of finalisation and shall soon be submitted to Publication Committee. Comments from C. Martin were obtained and have been incorporated.

Action 11: *In support of this programme [on exposure to natural radiation], the IAEA to assist authorities in identifying activities involving exposure to natural radiation that may need to be controlled, and to generate and disseminate additional sector-specific information on radioactivity levels, exposure conditions, and chemical and physical characteristics of airborne pollutants in workplaces involving naturally occurring radioactive material.*

An IAEA Safety Report entitled “Assessing the Need for Radiation Protection Measures in Work Involving Minerals and Raw Materials” has been completed and will be published in 2007. An industry-specific Safety Report entitled “Radiation Protection and NORM Residue Management in the Zircon and Zirconia Industries” has been completed and approved for publication. The drafting of other industry-specific Safety Reports, dealing with the phosphate and titanium dioxide industries, is continuing.

Action 12: *The IAEA and ILO to collaborate in devising strategies for achieving a better understanding between radiation protection practitioners on one hand and occupational health and safety practitioners on the other and for developing coherent approaches to safety in the workplace.*

As recommended by the Steering Committee in January 2006, ILO and the Agency have analysed the terms of reference used to define this action. This analyse has lead to a draft document which will be used as new terms of reference for an expert meeting to be held in 2007. Contacts for nominating experts are in progress.

Action 13: *The IAEA to review current information on this issue [standards for the protection of pregnant workers and their embryos and fetuses] in order to determine whether the issue warrants*

action at the international level. In addition to the work described in the presentations made at the Geneva Conference, relevant work has been done in a number of countries and by a number of bodies (such as ICRP).

No other activity was carried out after the meeting last year. The document is prepared; the information was submitted to ICRP and presented in International Conferences.

Action 14: *The IAEA, in collaboration with ILO, WHO, NEA and other relevant bodies and drawing on the experience of other stakeholders, to continue its work on developing international guidance for aiding decision-making on the attribution of cases of detrimental health effects to occupational exposure to ionizing radiation.*

WHO has organized an expert meeting held in Badmünstereifel, Germany in March. The experts reviewed the draft and 3 countries provided additional contributions on compensation programmes. The editorial board (WHO, ILO, IAEA) has met twice in 2006 and the final version of the new draft should be transmitted next April to the experts as well as to some other contributors (contributors to the first draft) or organisations for last comments.
