The Key Issues for IRPA

Roger Coates
IRPA President
“The international voice of the radiation protection profession”

So, in implementing the BSS, what is important to the professionals and the practitioners?
Practitioners want:

• Clear regulations, but which facilitate reasonable judgement on ‘proportionality’

• Clear regulatory responsibilities

• A strong regulator, but one who is capable of listening and responding to practical issues
Regulatory Bodies

How many??!

• Occupational exposure v patient exposure (Medical)
• Nuclear v non-nuclear sectors
• Occupational exposure v public exposure and environmental protection
• Safety v security
• Transport of radioactive materials

Radiological safety v conventional safety (etc)
Multiple Regulatory Bodies

Where multiple regulatory bodies exist:

– Clear areas of accountability
– Cooperation, not competition

However clear the formal regulations, there will be areas of overlap or common interest:

– Formal inter-regulator cooperation agreements, visible to the regulated community [eg MoUs etc]
– Agreed ‘lead areas’ where overlap is recognised
– Joint inspections and enforcement
– Mature regulatory behaviour
How can the practitioners help implementation?

Most of your national expertise is available through the RP Societies.

Yes, the regulatory body and the government finally decide on the regulation - but prior discussion with practitioners is helpful in getting regulations that can be implemented practically.

The RP societies can then help ‘spread the word’ on the new regulations.

IRPA’s Regional Congresses can help share experiences.
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Graded Approach

Integral throughout the BSS

Important for:
- the efficiency of the regulatory body
- the effectiveness of the operator/authorisee
- the effective use of national resources

Easy to say, more difficult to achieve, but vital to deliver:

Perhaps the most important topic for the prior discussion with the practitioner community and the RP society
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Qualified Expert (RPE)

Education, training, qualification and competence, plus formal recognition of the QE

Many RP societies around the world are cooperating with regulatory bodies to provide schemes for the formal recognition of competence

There is no single ‘best way’ – schemes must align with local practice and regulatory requirements

IRPA has just published ‘Guidance on Certification of a RPE’ giving the key considerations for such a scheme
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Safety culture

2.51 The principal parties shall promote and maintain a safety culture ..........

IRPA has published ‘Guiding Principles for establishing a radiation protection culture’

Work is continuing on additional guidance for the medical sector (jointly with IOMP and WHO), with other sector guidance under consideration
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Safety culture (2)

Perhaps a difficult role for regulators?

The key challenge for practitioners – getting the attention and active support of the senior managers/directors

Regulators can provide very effective ‘encouragement’ at this senior level within an organisation
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Eye Lens Dose Limit
BSS ratified before practical implementation was considered - and the dose limit is not universally agreed!
Hence the practitioners are having to play ‘catch up’

IRPA established a Task Group to identify the key implementation issues
- Who should be monitored?
- How to monitor?
- Eye protection provision

IRPA will shortly publish an updated report on progress with the key issues, together with guidance on monitoring and protection
Summary – Effective BSS Implementation

The practitioners and professionals want to help you draft and implement the most effective and efficient national regulations.

Please engage the help and support of your national RP society/association.