TRANSSC 29

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna
10 to 13 November 2014

PROVISIONAL TERMS OF REFERENCE
for Working Group 2
Development of the Structure of the Technical Basis Document
Provisional Terms of Reference

A. Background:

The IAEA is entrusted by the Social and Economic Council of the United Nations to develop safety requirements for the safe transport of radioactive material. These requirements were firstly published as “Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material”, Safety Series No. 6, 1961 edition (The Regulations). At the same time, the Director General of the Agency indicated that these regulations would be revised at appropriate intervals in consultation with Member States and the organization concerned and invited suggestions for their improvement in the light of experience and increased knowledge. This has been an ongoing task in the Agency’s budget since that time.

After 50 years, over 10 revisions of the Regulations have been published. These revisions have been taking into account the experiences, new issues, new technologies, best practices, demand for safer transport and harmonization. Problems, challenges and the demand for improvements have driven the transport community and the Agency in particular, to facilitate the regular review and revision of the Regulations.

As the years pass, and the scientific and technical heritage of several decades of development in transport safety begins to fade, the requirement for the capture of valuable knowledge which needs to be preserved for future reference has become clear.

In general, every requirement in the regulations was developed based on an appropriate technical basis. The technical basis exists in a decentralized manner in many Member States with mature nuclear programs. Easier access to the existing technical basis for the Regulations could lead to a more comprehensive understanding of the Regulations. Knowledge capture and transfer can contribute to the development of, and innovations in, transport safety.

A Technical Basis Document was assembled to capture the historical decisions that have been made related to the development of the transport regulations, from their conception to the present time. Numerous meetings and consultancies were held in the formation of the document and the latest version was prepared in September of 2014.

B. Work to be done

The participants will:

1) Review the current version of the Technical Basis Document (TBD) and;
   • Provide comments on any editorial or simple format corrections that may need to be made.
   • Discuss overall usefulness of the technical basis document. Is it generally in a format that is "user friendly" for potential users of the document?

2) Discuss the future uses of the document by TRANSSC and the larger transport community.
   • Would a significant revision of the format of the Technical Basis Document be warranted going forward?
   • What information should be captured in the TBD going forward?
   • How often should the TBD be revised?
C. The output of the meeting:

The working group should produce a brief report, which will include:

1) Editorial or minor format comments on the current TBD as it stands;
2) Recommendations on format and content of the TBD going forward;
3) A recommendation (with appropriate justification) for a frequency of revision for the TBD.