Terms of Reference for Working Groups 4, 5, 6 and 7

PROVISIONAL TERMS OF REFERENCE for Working Groups 4, 5, 6 and 7

Proposed Guidance Document based upon the structure of SSG33 to include all SSR-6 requirements
A. Background

The current edition of Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (SSR-6) was issued in 2012 and is currently under a revision process that will result in publication of SSR-6 2018 Edition.

The format of SSR6, which was first published in 1963, is complex and is considered by many to be a difficult document to understand; the associated guidance documents go some way towards resolving this. The feedback from the regional networks under development in Africa, Asia and Pacific, and the Mediterranean is that SSR-6 is difficult to understand, and that many Member States do want to put nuclear material into their regulatory frameworks and therefore have requested an abridged version of SSR-6 that does not include categories such as Type C, LDRM, fissile material, UF6.

A draft guidance document has been prepared by the Secretariat that is based upon the format of SSG 33 and is presented to TRANSSC for its considerations. The new document will provide all SSR6 requirements set out for each of the UN numbers associated with radioactive material. This format will align with how the operator classifies their consignment for shipment and therefore makes it far easier to understand. By setting out the full regulatory requirements categorised by the UN number, the document provides a set of IAEA transport regulatory requirements that can be adopted by Member States directly into their national transport regulations by selecting the UN numbers applicable to their needs. The Member State transport regulations based upon this document format would then not only include all the relevant SSR-6 requirements but the format would be in the form of a guidance document to help operators to understand the regulatory requirements and facilitate compliance.

This preliminary review provides TRANSSC with an opportunity to consider the issue of producing a more user friendly version of SSR-6 requirements and provide the Secretariat of its initial considerations concerning the proposed structure and any improvements / alternatives that this preliminary review raises.

Further work on this proposal would follow the established formal process for developing a guidance document in the form of a TECDOC.

B. Work to be done

Each working group should review the documents and make comments and recommendations in the context of its structure, if it is easy to understand from the users point of view, initial thoughts on improvements or alternative structures in the context of the target audience and the issues raised in the regional network programmes.

Due to the time limitations of the working groups a detailed set of proposals for changes to the technical content is not expected, nonetheless any additions or changes to the scope considered appropriate should be reported to Plenary.

Any alternative proposals for a guidance document that addresses the need for an easier to understand set of regulatory requirements that arise from the discussions should also be recorded and reported back to plenary.

C. Expected Output

A working group report will be drafted including:

a) Initial considerations on the scope, content and format of the document which would improve the effectiveness of the document to the variety of operators/regulatory bodies involved in the transport of radioactive material.

b) A presentation for TRANSSC plenary to provide feedback to TRANSSC which summarizes findings of the working group.