TRANSPORT SAFETY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(TRANSSC)

FOUR YEAR TERM REPORT
2014 – 2017

P HINRICHESEN

International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna
1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the work of the Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC) during the four-year term covering the period January 2014 to December 2017.

This was a four-year term, as opposed to the usual three-year term. The reason for this was that, at the commencement of the current TRANSC Term, the new NSGC (Nuclear Security Guidance Committee) was one year into its second three-year term, having first been formed one year into the three-year term of the (then) existing four safety committees. Hence to try to bring the four safety committees into synchronisation with the NSGC, it was decided by the IAEA that the safety committees would serve a four-year term, and hence would complete this four-year term at the same time that the NSGC would complete its second three-year term.

Additionally the Agency has now initiated a 5th safety committee, (EPrESSC) which had its first committee meeting at the time when the other safety committees were into the 3rd year of their term. Hence, and to enable the 5 safety committees and the NSGC to end their terms concurrently, the EPrESSC committee has served a 2-year term.

2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to:

- Summarize the role and responsibilities of TRANSSC;
- Review the work undertaken during the period 2014 to 2017;
- Identify any improvement/lacking in the format of the TRANSSC process;
- Identify key issues that should be addressed by TRANSSC during the next three-year term from 2018 to 2020.

3.0 TRANSSC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

TRANSSC is a standing body of senior experts in the transport of radioactive material, established by the Deputy Director General, Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security. The TRANSSC membership for the period 2014 to 2017 is given in Annex 1. TRANSSC is one of five Safety Standards Committees and one security committee, established to support the preparation and review of IAEA Safety Standards.

The Commission on Safety Standards (CSS) provides oversight and review of the six Committees: Nuclear Safety Standards Committee (NUSSC), Radiation Safety Standards Committee (RASSC), Waste Safety Standards Committee (WASSC), Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC), Emergency Preparedness Safety Committee (EPrESC) and Nuclear Security Guidance Committee (NSGC). Each Committee has responsibility for overseeing the development and approval of Standards in its respective technical area of nuclear safety, radiation safety, waste safety, transport safety, emergency preparedness safety and nuclear security.
4.0 FUNCTIONS OF TRANSSC

The functions of TRANSSC are:

• To periodically review and provide advice and guidance on the strategy, priorities and programme for the development of the transport safety standards issued in the IAEA Safety Standards Series.
• To review reports on feedback received from the Secretariat and from members of the Safety Standards Committees as well as of the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee (NSGC), if any, regarding the application and use of transport safety standards and to provide advice on enhancing their usefulness to achieve high levels of safety, as well as on the timely review and the need for revision of published transport safety standards.
• To review and approve proposals for the development of documents to be published in the IAEA Safety Standards Series, i.e. draft document preparation profiles (DPPs).
• To review and clear DPPs for the development of documents to be published as part of the IAEA Nuclear Security Series.
• To review and approve the text of draft transport safety standards before their submission to Member States for comment.
• To review and approve the text of draft transport safety standards before their final endorsement for publication.
• To review and clear draft nuclear security guidance documents for which there are safety–security interfaces before their submission to Member States for comment.
• To review and clear draft nuclear security guidance documents for which there are safety–security interfaces before their final endorsement for publication.

5.0 WORK OF TRANSSC 2014-2017

5.1 TRANSSC Meetings

The TRANSSC Committee meets twice each year, typically in the June/July and October/November time frame, at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna. The Safety Standards Committee website, developed by the IAEA for use by all five Safety Standards Committees and by the NSGC and CSS, is a tool which serves to assist TRANSSC in identifying other committee documents requiring review.

As a rule documents requiring TRANSSC approval must be posted on the TRANSSC website no less than 60-days prior to the Meeting while documents for information must be published to the TRANSSC website no less than 14-days prior to the Meeting.

During its meetings, TRANSSC discusses relevant Safety Standards, makes recommendations for approval and/or for improvement in the document, and agrees on the next steps in the document’s development. TRANSSC is also briefed by the Secretariat on the outcome of international meetings and conferences held at the
IAEA and elsewhere. Emerging or topical issues dealing with transportation are also presented, reviewed and commented on as may be appropriate. As discussed in more detail in the following section, the structure of TRANSSC meetings has been realigned in response to TRANSSC member suggestions.

5.2 TRANSSC Working Groups

During any given TRANSSC Meeting any number of ad-hoc Working Groups may be set up in order to assist in the discussion and resolution of topics of interest at that time.

In particular, and by no means exhaustive, is the following list of ad-hoc working groups held during the Term;

- Classification, Marking/Labelling, Placarding and Documentation
- International WG Package stowage and retention system during transport of radioactive material
- Development of the Structure of the Technical Basis Document
- Freight Containers, Large Objects, Special Arrangements
- Package Design Safety Report (PDSR)
- Criticality Working group
- A1/A2 Working Group
- NORM Working Group

5.3 TRANSSC Initiatives to Improve the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Deliberations

TRANSSC and the Transport Safety Unit have, during the Term in question, initiated a number of actions to improve the efficiency of the TRANSSC meetings and the conduct of TRANSSC-related activities. The following new initiatives were instituted or are being considered:

5.3.1 Meeting Format:

Where possible, any planned working groups for a particular TRANSSC Meeting, are held in the days prior to the TRANSSC Meeting and are then required to report their deliberations at the TRANSSC Meeting. It was felt that this would give those TRANSSC members, who wish to be at the meeting but who, for whatever reason, are unable to participate in working group discussion, the opportunity to make their visit more efficient. However this must be balanced against the need for any TRANSSC Meeting (with the exclusion of time spent in prior working groups) to be lengthy enough to make it worth the trip for TRANSSC members who come from a distance to attend a meeting. This also provides the additional flexibility that, should there be enough proposed discussion topics to fill a 5-day meeting, then prior working group discussions could be removed from the proposed agenda. There may also be the advantage that, discussions which might have taken place during separate technical meetings or consultancy meetings, could take place in the same week as TRANSSC and hence allow participation of a wider TRANSSC audience.
5.3.2 TRANSSC Technical Experts Group:

As we approach the last TRANSSC Meeting of the Term, and following a recommendation from the USA, TRANSSC will be asked to decide on the concept of having Standing Technical Expert Groups (STEG) which will, in future TRANSSC Meetings, operate as a Prior-Working Group meeting before the TRANSSC Meeting and discussing any item falling within the area of expertise of the STEG.

As it may develop, it is foreseen that, during any future review cycle, all member state comments related to the area of expertise of said SWG could be tasked to that STEG for discussion and recommendation as appropriate. Additionally documents from other committees, arriving at TRANSSC for discussion, could conceivably be tasked within a particular STEG for review and discussion.

5.3.3 Knowledge on How the Transport Regulations are Implemented in Other Member States.

It has been a long tradition that at every TRANSSC Meeting two member states provide a brief presentation on the implementation of the Transport Regulations in their country. TRANSSC members continue to find this practice useful and interesting and it is hoped that this tradition will continue.

6.0 TRANSSC REVIEW/REVISION CYcle 2015

During 2014 TRANSSC made the decision to enter into a Review Cycle. The Review received over 150 comments from Member States. In order to facilitate the TRANSSC Review of these proposals, during the year, TRANSSC found it necessary to call an additional Extraordinary TRANSSC Meeting which was held in September of 2015 and was attended by 48 member state representatives. Thanks to the commitment of TRANSSC members, in attending this meeting, by the final TRANSSC Meeting of 2015, substantial progress had been made in the Review of both SSR-6 and of SSG-26.

At the TRANSSC 31 Meeting (November 2015) following the resulting review process, TRANSSC made the decision to enter into a Revision Cycle for both SSR-6 and for SSG-26.

The current status of the 2015 Review/Revision cycle, as at the end of the 2014-2017 Term is provided in the Table below;
Table: Current Status of Transport-Related Documents;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOCUMENT</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>CURRENT STATUS</th>
<th>EXPECTED TIMEFRAME FOR PUBLICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSR-6 20XX Edition</td>
<td>Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material</td>
<td>Approved by the CSS (Oct 2017) for going to the Publication Committee</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSG-26</td>
<td>Advisory Material for the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material</td>
<td>Currently in 120-Day Member State Comment Period.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TS-G-1.2</td>
<td>Planning and Preparing for Emergency Response to Transport Accidents Involving Radioactive Material</td>
<td>The lead Committee on this document is the new EP/ESSC. However a number of TRANSSC members are regularly involved in the ongoing process of reviewing this document.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TS-G-1.3</td>
<td>Radiation Protection Programmes for the Transport of Radioactive Material</td>
<td>Review to commence during TRANSSC 35.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TS-G-1.4</td>
<td>The Management System for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material</td>
<td>Review to commence during TRANSSC 35.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TS-G-1.5</td>
<td>Compliance assurance for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material</td>
<td>Start of Review process is yet to be determined by TRANSSC.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRANSSC 34 made the decision not to enter into a new Review/Revision Cycle of SSR-6 at its first Meeting of 2017 (TRANSSC 34) since the 20XX Edition, resulting from the 2015 Review/Revision cycle, was not yet published.

7.0  Cooperation between TRANSSC and the Commission on Safety Standards.

At the outset of the current Term, Mr Delattre (Section Head Safety Standards and Security Guidance Development Section) has been updating TRANSSC on the new IT system for document management. However, as we reach the conclusion of this
Term the effects of this new system, on the deliberations of TRANSSC, are yet to be experienced.

8.0 Cooperation Between TRANSSC and other Safety Standards and the Nuclear Security Committee

There has not been any opportunity provided, during this Term, for joint meetings with other safety committees or with the Security Committee (apart from a brief side-meeting between representatives of TRANSSC and of the NSGC at TRANSSC 33 aimed at resolving an impasse in approval of NST-044 on Security During the Transport of Radioactive Material.

This has been a short-coming on behalf of the management of TRANSSC meetings as certainly we may identify areas where a joint meeting would have been helpful. An example is in the review of TS-G-1.2, with the EPrESSC as well as joint meetings with RASSC related to the work of the A1/A2 Working Group.

Attention will need to be paid to the holding of such joint sessions in the new Term of TRANSSC.

9.0 Safety Committee Self-Assessment Process

It was at the TRANSSC 34 Meeting in July 2017 that it was requested, by Mr Delattre (Head – Safety Standards and Security Guidance Development Section) that all Committee members be invited to complete a Self-assessment of the Committees work and working methods compared against the Terms of Reference of the Committee. With regard to this Self-Assessment it was emphasised that

- The Assessments would necessarily be different for each Committee
- There was no intention to ‘invent’ performance indicators
- The assessment should be “qualitative”, rather than “quantitative”,
- There was no intention of the CSS to make comparisons between Committees

At the time of writing 5 responses have been received to the Self-Assessment. This being the case it is not possible to draw broad conclusions about the outcome of the Assessment, based upon such a small sample size.

However, the following issues seem to be common to the responses received thus far;

- The lack of joint meetings with other safety/security committees
- A lack of understanding of the Steps involved in the routing of a document through the IAEA publication process
- Frustration at the time taken for documents to make their way through the IAEA publication process.
10.0  FUTURE CHALLENGES

Future challenges to TRANSSC during the next three-year term, 2018 – 2020 include:

• Continuing the periodic review cycle for SSR-6/SSG-26, balancing the need for change with the need for stability in the Regulations.
• Continuing with the identification of areas where there is a need for guidance, in one form or another, balancing this against the need to keep the number of documents to a minimum.
• Review of TS-G-1.2 in conjunction with the EPrESSC
• Broader joint meetings with other committees, where necessary.
• **Increasing the active participation of other member states in TRANSSC, particularly from all identified Regional Networks.**
• Continuing to educate those member states, not currently attending TRANSSC, on the application of the transport standards.