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60 Years

Atoms for Peace and Development

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Regional Cooperation for the **SAFE TRANSPORT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL**



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“For the last 50 years, the safety record for the transport of radioactive material has been exemplary. The IAEA plays the central role in helping countries to ensure that nuclear and other radioactive materials do not fall into the wrong hands.” This GNSSN Transport network will “...provide a platform for sharing information among experts in order to achieve a higher level of safety and security ...around the world. It will be instrumental in spreading best practices and ensuring continuous improvement in nuclear safety.”

Yukiya Amano



“The transport of radioactive material continues every day and it is the duty and responsibility of governments to provide a radiation safety infrastructure appropriate to the transport activities that take place. The future model is collaboration on a regional basis and between trading States. ”

J.C. Lentijo



Mission: A Coordination Approach

Regional Cooperation fosters a collaborative approach among regional Member States with the aim of developing a common, harmonised view for the interpretation and implementation of the regulations for the transport of radioactive materials among the countries within the region. Its mission is to provide a proactive means of maintaining and developing a consistently high level of safety for the transport of radioactive material in the individual regions and also in relation to and with neighbouring regions.

Objectives

- Develop a common understanding by promoting more effective interaction and coordination between competent authorities (CAs) at a working level.
- Share knowledge and relevant best practices, and potentially resources.
- Identify needs and work collaboratively on specific issues with defined outputs.
- Establish working links within Member States and CAs in neighbouring regions.

Establishing Regional Cooperation

It is envisioned that by encouraging regional cooperation among the CAs experts, they will be able to more effectively build a functioning network and explore their technical interests as a unified community, stay current in their profession, connect with peers, and build their competences. Members of the regional network will also be able to carry out technical exchanges via e-mail or video/teleconferences if there is a need for discussing a particular issue amongst the members.

Regional Cooperation for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material



Ownership

It is important to stress that these are “networks” of the participating members, who will determine the issues to be discussed, the timetable of their work and, the actions/measures to be taken as an independent body. With funding currently provided by the USA and the European Union, the IAEA is providing necessary support for the successful development and operation of the regional networks. The success of a Regional Cooperation will entirely depend upon the efforts and ambitions of the participating members involved.



Membership

Membership is on a voluntary basis and is non-legally binding: there is no legal obligation on any participating member to apply/implement documents or approaches that have been discussed/developed in common with other regional members. To promote open discussion among the members, network membership is restricted to regulators in the field of radioactive material transport.



Meetings

Meetings (workshops and training courses) were held from 2013-2016 in various regions. For some, the first meetings consisted of an introduction to the basic regulatory requirements for the transport of radioactive material. For other regions that have a more developed infrastructure, the objectives were to initiate the process for self-assessments of the Member States' regulatory infrastructure for transport, carry out peer reviews of the self-assessment exercises, and develop and implement national and regional plans of action.

Among the actions identified as a first priority in common for most of the regions will be to compile a list of import-export and transit requirements, and develop an approach for compliance inspection and approval of packages. SharePoint sites have been established to facilitate the easy access to and sharing of information pertinent to transport in each of the regions.

Top Ten Uses of Radioactive Material

All of which require safe transport



1
Diagnosing cancer



2
Cancer treatment



3
Sterilizing blood (blood irradiators)



4
Confirming the quality of welds in industrial piping (industrial radiography)



5
Well logging (well logging gauges)



6
Measuring level or product thickness (fixed industrial gauges)



7
Sterilizing food, products, or medical equipment (industrial irradiation)



8
Measuring soil density or moisture (soil density gauges)



9
Scientific research



10
Providing energy

Regions Involved

The regions involved in the Regional Cooperation for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material network are the Member States bordering the Mediterranean sea, Africa, the Pacific Islands (Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Tonga, and Vanuatu), the Caribbean Islands and Asia (southeast Asia primarily).

