

CAPACITY BUILDING

The Safe Transport of Radioactive Material – A Regional Approach

<http://www-ns.iaea.org/tech-areas/radiation-safety/transport.asp?s=3&l=23>

Recognizing the benefits that can be achieved through the creation of regional networks dedicated to strengthening the safety of the transport of radioactive material, some Member States (the United States and Countries of the European Union, in particular) have provided financial and technical support for developing these regional networks.

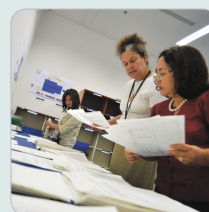
Harmonizing the implementation of the IAEA's transport safety standards requires Member States to create and use networks to build capacity for the effective regulatory oversight of the safe transport of radioactive material.

The mission of the regional projects is to assist in fostering harmonization amongst regional Member States to develop a common, coordinated view for the interpretation and implementation of the regulations for the transport of radioactive material in the region. The aim is to provide a proactive means of maintaining and developing a consistent high level of safety for the transport of radioactive material in the individual region and also in relation to and with the neighbouring networks.

Several of these networks are currently being developed, notably in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, the Caribbean Islands, and the Mediterranean region. An existing network, the European Association of Competent Authorities which was created in 2008, brings together on a voluntary and non-legally binding basis, transport safety regulators for radioactive material of the Members States of the European Union.

Objectives

- Develop common understanding and promote more effective interaction between competent authorities at a working level
- Share knowledge and relevant good practices and, potentially, resources
- Identify needs and participate in joint working groups with defined outputs, and
- Establish working links between the neighbouring networks.





Relations with Other Neighbouring Networks for Transport of Radioactive Material

Maintaining and strengthening good neighbourly relations and promoting mutual understanding among networks for transport of radioactive material benefits all parties concerned. Sharing documents developed in one network with those in other transport networks is also encouraged.

Mode of Operation of the Networks

The networks will provide opportunities to establish personal contacts and promote competences amongst the network members, facilitating the development of an effectively functioning network. These exchanges will be carried out by e-mail or video conferences if there is a need for discussing a particular issue amongst the network members (most likely between a few network members at a time).

Ownership of the Network

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 and or measures to be taken as an independent body. With funding provided by the USA and the European Union, the IAEA is providing the networks with all necessary support for their successful development and operation. The success a network will entirely depend

upon the efforts and ambitions of the participating members involved.

Membership to the Networks

Membership to the networks is restricted to regulators for the transport of radioactive material to promote open discussion among the network members. 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 within the network.

Past Meetings

Several meetings have already taken place in the various regions. For some networks, the first meetings consisted of an introduction to the basic regulatory requirements for the transport of radioactive material.

For other networks with a more developed infrastructure, the objectives were to initiate the process for self-assessments of the network members' regulatory infrastructure for transport (TSA7), carry out "peer reviews" of the Self-Assessment exercises and develop plans of actions.

Amongst the actions identified as a first priority and common for most of the networks will be to draw a list of import-export and transit requirements, and develop an approach for compliance inspection and approval of packages.

Participation in the various networks for Transport of Radioactive Material

Regional Transport Networks

Asia

Bangladesh, Cambodia Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Oman, Syria, TTUJ of T. Palestine A., Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Pacific Islands

Fiji, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands

Mediterranean

Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Greece, Montenegro, Portugal, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, FYROM, Jordan

Africa

South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania, Morocco, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Madagascar, Niger, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire

Caribbean

Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Panama, Puerto Rico, British Virgin Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, Turks and Caicos Islands, Barbados, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis

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