

Regional workshop on Denials of Shipment for English Speaking African Countries Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania – 11 to 13 June 2008

Objective

The purpose of this workshop was to raise awareness of all parties concerned, i.e. suppliers, recipients, regulators, carriers/consignors and international organizations of the problems relating to denials of shipment of radioactive material with a view to determining effective measures to prevent or reduce the instances of denials in the countries of these broad geographical areas.

Attendance

33 participants from eleven countries and four international organizations attended the workshop. The International Steering Committee on Denials of Shipments was represented by its vice-Chairman, Mr. J. Rolstone. The IAEA Secretariat was represented by Mr. N. Bruno and Ms. Y. Suzuki, from the Transport Safety Unit.

Main results

Presentations by participants confirmed the problem and resulted in the conclusion that, if no immediate action is taken, the problem could grow in the region. Domestic solutions were demonstrated and their potential use at a regional level was discussed. A regional action plan to prevent or reduce instances of denials of shipments and to alleviate the hardships to users of radioactive material was developed and approved. Bases and relevant items from the action plan are as follow.

- the importance of successful communication and strong cooperation between the Steering Committee, the IAEA, the UN and International Modal Organizations, trade associations, regional networks, and the National Focal Points in each country to lead to better understanding and resolution of the problem;
- regional ownership and the creation of a network is important to enable them to solve region-specific issues and work with other regional networks and the ISC to resolve higher level issues.
- further meetings of the regional networks on denials of shipment are important to facilitate the implementation of regional action plan and to maintain momentum of achieving sustainable solutions in the longer term. They sought support from the IAEA Secretariat to make this happen;
- IAEA Secretariat to encourage Member States in the region that are yet to appoint a National Focal Point (NFP) to do so by December 2008 and encourage their active participation in the Network;
- Roles and responsibilities of the NFP's need to be more widely known both national and internationally.

Conclusion

Regional workshops have proved to be effective in raising awareness of all stakeholders involved in the issue denials and delays of shipment and to efficient in establishing a regional networking and an action plan.