

IRPA 12 International Congress

Topical Session III.5.1 Radiation Protection in Transport of Radioactive Materials

Buenos Aires, Argentina – 19 to 24 October 2008

Objective

The purpose of this topical session was to incorporate the transport of radioactive materials to the list of topics usually included in IRPA Congresses (an event with 1600 participants from 192 countries). Particularly, in this edition it was included a round table about “Denials and delays of shipment of RAM” in order to concentrate the point of view of suppliers, recipients, regulators, carriers/consignors and international organizations.

Participants

Mr. Richard Rawl (chairman of the topical session), Mr. López Vietri (co-chairman), Mr. William Wilkinson (rapporteur), Mr. Mario Mallaupoma (keynote lecturer), Mr. Alejandro Nader (chairman for the round table), Mr. Luis Moré (co-chairman for the round table), Mrs. Ana Sobreira (opening remarks), Mrs. Nancy Capadona (technical secretary), Mr. Demerval Rodrigues (expositor) and general public attending the session.

Main results

In addition to some expositions about radiological protection in transport of radioactive materials, Mr. Mario Mallaupoma from Perú presented the subject of denials and delays, who gave a detailed explanation of the situation in the region and the actions taken by the “Grupo de Montevideo”.

Following the expositions, Mr. Alejandro Nader invited Ms. Sobreira to open the round table. Her enthusiastic presentation related about common problems found with denials and delays in the transport of RAM and their consequences was enriched with experiences from other countries included by representatives from United Kingdom, Finland, Uruguay, Sudan and Argentina. All of them confirmed the problematic situation and was concluded that the problem is growing all over the world. It was shown that in the case of Port of Sao Paulo domestic actions contributed to improve the situation but there is a need for joint action at a regional level. Due to the short duration of the session it was impossible to extend the round table but the following aspects could be underlined:

- the interpretation of the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials by competent authorities of different countries should be similar;
- the requirements coming from security in transport of RAM and the lack of technical and safety related information may increase the number of denials and delays;
- the successful communication and strong cooperation between carriers, consignors, trade associations, transportation authorities, competent authorities and the IAEA is essential to lead a better understanding and resolution of the problem;
- the information and training of all stakeholders are important tools to reduce instances of denials of shipments.

Conclusion

Regional networks on denials of shipment are important to facilitate the implementation of regional action plan and to achieve sustainable solutions in the longer term. Financial supporting should be found.