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10 **NUCLEAR SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT,**
11 **DESIGN BASIS THREATS AND**
12 **REPRESENTATIVE THREAT STATEMENTS**

13 **DRAFT IMPLEMENTING GUIDE**

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20 **INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**
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1. INTRODUCTION

2 BACKGROUND

1.1. The objective of a State's nuclear security regime is to protect persons, property, society, and the environment from harmful consequences of a nuclear security event. [1].

1.2. The Nuclear Security Fundamentals set out the objective of a nuclear security regime and its essential elements [1]. The Nuclear Security Recommendations indicate what a nuclear security regime should address regarding:

(a) Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities [2];

(b) Radioactive Material and Associated Facilities [3]; and

(c) Nuclear and Other Radioactive Material out of Regulatory Control [4].

1.3. The first version of this Implementing Guide was issued in 2009. The current revision updates this publication to take into account developments in the field as well as to ensure consistency in terminology with Refs. [1] – [4], which were published after 2009.

1.4. This publication has also been updated relative to the first edition to include physical and cyber threat considerations, to clarify the use of a threat assessment as an alternative approach to the design basis threat as recommended in Ref. [2], to sufficiently explain how to develop application specific design basis threats and to better address threats using or supported by cyber capabilities.

3 OBJECTIVE

1.5. The objective of this publication is to provide a detailed step by step methodology for performing a nuclear security threat assessment and for the development, use and maintenance of design basis threats and representative threat statements. This includes:

- 1 (a) Defining the roles and responsibilities of the State, competent authorities, including
2 the regulatory body¹, and operators;
- 3 (b) Identifying and assessing threats related to nuclear security;
- 4 (c) Developing threat statements such as design basis threats and/or representative threat
5 statements using the results of a nuclear security threat assessment;
- 6 (d) Using design basis threats and/or representative threat statements to develop nuclear
7 security systems and measures, and nuclear security requirements;
- 8 (e) Maintaining the nuclear security threat assessment documentation; and
- 9 (f) Maintaining design basis threats and representative threat statements.

10 1.6. This publication is intended for use by States, competent authorities, including the
11 regulatory body, and the operators of facilities and activities associated with nuclear and other
12 radioactive material, including shippers and carriers.

13 SCOPE

14 1.7. The concept and methodology described in this publication applies to the performance of
15 nuclear threat assessments and for development, use and maintenance of design basis threats
16 and representative threat statements for protecting nuclear and other radioactive material as
17 well as associated facilities and activities.

18 1.8. Guidance for developing a risk informed approach and conducting threat and risk
19 assessments as the basis for the design and implementation of sustainable nuclear security
20 systems and measures for the prevention of, detection of, and response to criminal or
21 intentional unauthorized acts involving nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory
22 control is not provided in this publication. Guidance on this topic can be found in *Risk Informed*

¹ While some States may have multiple regulatory bodies responsible for nuclear and other radioactive material and associated facilities and activities, for simplicity, in this publication we refer to regulatory body in the singular.

1 *Approach to Nuclear and Other Radioactive Material out of Regulatory Control (NSS No. 24-*
2 *G) [5].*

3 STRUCTURE

4 1.9. Following this introduction, Section 2 addresses nuclear security threat assessment in a
5 risk informed approach. Section 3 provides an overview of the process of performance of
6 nuclear security threat assessment, and the development, use and maintenance of nuclear
7 security threat assessment documentation, design basis threats and representative threat
8 statements. Section 4 outlines the roles and responsibilities of the organizations involved into
9 the nuclear security threat assessment process, Section 5 provides guidance on how to perform
10 a nuclear security threat assessment, Section 6 describes the development of threat statements,
11 and Section 7 provides guidance on the use of threat statements. Finally, Section 8 provides
12 guidance on the maintenance of the nuclear security threat assessment documentation and the
13 threat statements. A model for a design basis threat is provided as an annex.

14 **2. NUCLEAR SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT IN A RISK INFORMED** 15 **APPROACH**

16 2.1. Both international conventions and IAEA Nuclear Security Series guidance underscore
17 the importance of threat assessment and the use of a risk-informed approach to nuclear security.
18 Notably, according to Fundamental Principle G (Threat) of the Convention on the Physical
19 Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) [6, 7], as amended, “the State’s physical protection
20 should be based on the State’s current evaluation of the threat.”

21 2.2. Moreover, according to Essential Element 7 of Ref. [1],

22 *“A nuclear security regime uses risk informed approaches, including in the allocation of resources for*
23 *nuclear security systems and nuclear security measures and in the conduct of nuclear security related*
24 *activities that are based on a graded approach and defence in depth, which take into account the*
25 *following:*

26 (a) *The State’s current assessment of the nuclear security threats, both internal and external;*

- 1 (b) *The relative attractiveness and vulnerability of identified targets to nuclear security threats;*
- 2 (c) *Characteristics of the nuclear material, other radioactive material, associated facilities and*
3 *associated activities;*
- 4 (d) *Potential harmful consequences from criminal or intentional unauthorized acts involving or*
5 *directed at nuclear material, other radioactive material, associated facilities, associated*
6 *activities, sensitive information or sensitive information assets, and other acts determined by*
7 *the State to have an adverse impact on nuclear security.”*

8 2.3. Furthermore, according to Ref. [2], “the State should define requirements - based on the
9 threat assessment or design basis threat - for the physical protection of nuclear material in use,
10 in storage, and during transport, and for nuclear facilities depending on the associated
11 consequences of either unauthorized removal or sabotage,” and according to Ref [3], “the State
12 should assess its national threat to radioactive material, associated facilities and associated
13 activities, and should periodically review its national threat, and evaluate the implications of
14 any changes in the threat for the design or update of its nuclear security regime.” Ref [3] also
15 states that “the regulatory body should use the results of the threat assessment as a common
16 basis for determining security requirements for radioactive material and for periodically
17 evaluating their adequacy.

18 2.4. The sub-sections to follow will address in more detail several issues related to nuclear
19 security threat assessment using a risk-informed-approach, adversaries and their attributes and
20 characteristics, and information security concerns.

21 RISK INFORMED APPROACH AND THREAT STATEMENTS

22 2.5. Ref. [1] underscores that an essential element of a nuclear security regime is the use of
23 risk-informed approaches, including in the allocation of resources for nuclear security systems
24 and nuclear security measures and in the conduct of nuclear security related activities that are
25 based on a graded approach and defence in depth.² Taking a risk informed approach to nuclear

² The use of a graded approach and defence in depth are discussed in more detail in Ref. [1]

1 security should involve consideration of: the threat, the attractiveness and vulnerability of
2 potential targets, as well as the potential consequences resulting from malicious acts.

3 2.6. Ref. [2] recommends that “the State should ensure that the State’s physical protection
4 regime is capable of establishing and maintaining the risk of unauthorized removal and
5 sabotage at acceptable levels through risk management.” Risk management should include a
6 periodic re-evaluation of the threat and the potential consequences of malicious acts and should
7 ensure that appropriate nuclear security systems and measures are put into place to prevent or
8 acceptably reduce the likelihood of a successful malicious act.

9 2.7. A nuclear security threat assessment process, for which an overview is provided in Section
10 3 of this publication and detailed guidance in later chapters, is an evaluation of the existing
11 nuclear security related threats to determine the attributes and characteristics of potential
12 adversaries. This nuclear security threat assessment process makes use of global, regional and
13 domestic sources of information.

14 2.8. The nuclear security threat assessment process results in the production of a nuclear
15 security threat assessment documentation, from which threat statements can be developed. A
16 threat statement sets out credible adversary attributes and characteristics that activities and
17 facilities associated with nuclear and other radioactive material are to protect against.

18 2.9. An assessment of the current threat related to nuclear security provided in threat
19 statements such as design basis threats and representative threat statements can be used to
20 facilitate a risk informed approach to nuclear security as well as risk management at individual
21 facilities and activities. Threat statements can assist the design and evaluation of nuclear
22 security systems and measures that take into account the potential consequences of a successful
23 malicious act.

24 2.10. States could choose to develop two types of threat statements: representative threat
25 statements and/or design basis threats. Representative threat statements are typically used to
26 develop prescriptive regulatory requirements³ for a certain subset of materials and/or facilities
27 to be protected, while design basis threats are typically defined for specific facilities or

³ More detailed information on prescriptive and performance-based regulatory approaches can be found in Refs. [2, 3, 8, 9]

1 activities. For example, a representative threat statement might be used to develop prescriptive
2 regulatory requirements for the protection of Category 1 radioactive sources in use and storage,
3 while a design basis threat might be used to design and evaluate a nuclear security system
4 developed by an operator of a given irradiator using a Category 1 radioactive source to satisfy
5 performance-based requirements to provide effective protection against attack scenarios based
6 on this design basis threat.

7 2.11. States could choose to define different representative threat statements for: different
8 categories of nuclear and other radioactive materials and different types of facilities and
9 activities (e.g. Category 1 radioactive material, irradiators and transport of radioactive
10 material); different adversary objectives (e.g. theft, sabotage); or cyber specific target assets
11 (e.g. sensitive information, computer based systems for nuclear safety, security, and nuclear
12 material accountancy and control).

13 2.12. Similarly, States could choose to define design basis threats based on the nuclear security
14 threat assessment documentation that are applicable to specific high risk materials, facilities
15 and/or activities (such as a research reactor, or transport of spent nuclear fuel). These design
16 basis threats would take account of details of the facility or activity such as its design and
17 location, policy considerations like conservatism and public confidence, as well as the
18 missions, capabilities and resources of the regulatory body and the operator.

19 2.13. Some threats identified during the nuclear security threat assessment process will likely
20 not be included in the design basis threats and representative threat statements. In this case,
21 protection against these threats, even if the operators' nuclear security systems have some
22 inherent protection, need to be considered in the State's contingency plan. Although the State
23 should develop measures to counter these nuclear security related threats, the operator might
24 still have a role in assisting the State either to protect against these nuclear security related
25 threats or to mitigate their consequences.

26 2.14. Decisions regarding nuclear security risk are ultimately based on current threats of
27 concern to a State, the possibility of new and emerging threats, and decisions regarding how to
28 balance conservatism regarding security with cost and operational impact. The decisions may

1 also involve considerations such as lessons learned from previous threat assessments, political
2 and economic considerations, and the public's perception of risk..

3 POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES AND THEIR ATTRIBUTES AND CHARACTERISTICS

4 2.15. Potential adversaries could include terrorists, criminals, activists and extremists who
5 might seek to acquire and use nuclear or other radioactive material in order to build nuclear
6 explosive devices, radiological dispersal devices or radiation exposure devices. They might
7 also seek to commit sabotage of facilities in which nuclear or other radioactive material is used
8 or stored or to sabotage the transport of such material.

9 2.16. Adversaries may include insiders, defined as “individual[s] with authorized access to
10 *associated facilities* or *associated activities* or to *sensitive information* or *sensitive information*
11 *assets*, who could commit, or facilitate the commission of criminal or intentional unauthorized
12 acts involving or directed at *nuclear material*, *other radioactive material*, *associated facilities*
13 or *associated activities* or other acts determined by the State to have an adverse impact on
14 nuclear security.” [1] Adversaries might seek to acquire authorized access to a facility in order
15 to later function as insiders, or already employed personnel may become insider threats.

16 2.17. Moreover, the potential for collusion between insiders and external adversaries should
17 be considered. An insider may conduct a criminal or intentional unauthorized act physically or
18 using cyber means at the same time as an external adversary, or the two acts could be
19 sequential.

20 2.18. There are multiple types of potential criminal or intentional unauthorized acts that
21 adversaries might undertake and that a State should consider. For example, States should
22 consider not only such acts that involve physical access to the facility or activity, but also cyber
23 attacks. Cyber attacks could be aimed at computer-based systems used for nuclear safety
24 (including instrumentation and control systems), nuclear material accountancy and control, and
25 nuclear security. Adversaries might also undertake a blended attack, where an attack on a
26 computer-based system is conducted in combination with criminal or intentional unauthorized
27 act involving access to the facility (such as a physical attack).

1 2.19. The potential for both insider threats as well as external adversaries to undertake criminal
2 or intentional unauthorized acts resulting in a compromise of the confidentiality, integrity and
3 availability of information contained on computer systems should be considered.

4 2.20. The potential for stand-off attacks should also be considered. A stand-off attack could
5 involve remote controlled devices operated from a distance such as drones, missiles, sniper
6 rifles or electro-magnetic waves.

7 2.21. The introduction of malware through the supply chain may be seen as a threat, and could
8 be a result of collusion with cyber threats or of a cyber attack to the supply chain.

9 2.22. All combinations of possible attacks should be considered: for example, when
10 developing attack scenarios for nuclear security system design, attack scenarios involving
11 collusion between insider threats and external adversaries and using blended cyber-physical
12 attacks should be addressed.

13 2.23. The relevant attributes and characteristics of a potential adversary describe motivations,
14 intent and capabilities. Motivations could be economic, political, or ideological. Intent may
15 include unauthorized possession of material, radiological sabotage and/or public
16 embarrassment for the operator or the State. The capabilities of an adversary is determined by
17 its composition, including the number of individuals involved, the adversary's organization
18 and coordination, whether insider threats are involved. Capabilities also include the
19 individuals' and organization's abilities, assets and relevant skills, such as tactics, weapons,
20 explosives, transportation, physical and cyber tools, knowledge of software exploits and level
21 of access to the facility or computer systems.

22 INFORMATION SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

23 2.24. All credible information related to threats, including national intelligence and other
24 sensitive information should be used in the development and maintenance of threat statements.
25 Some of this information and many of its sources need to be protected. A design basis threat
26 or a representative threat statement, because of its use in the design and evaluation of nuclear
27 security systems may be protected as sensitive information due to its value to an adversary.

1 2.25. Detailed guidance on protecting sensitive nuclear security information can be found in
2 Ref. [10].

3 **3. OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT, USE AND**
4 **MAINTENANCE OF NUCLEAR SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT**
5 **DOCUMENTATION, DESIGN BASIS THREATS AND REPRESENTATIVE**
6 **THREAT STATEMENTS**

7 3.1. The process of development, use and maintenance of the nuclear security threat
8 assessment documentation, the design basis threats and representative threat statements
9 consists of five steps:

- 10 1. Definition of roles and responsibilities;
- 11 2. Performance of the nuclear security threat assessment;
- 12 3. Development of design basis threats and representative threat statements;
- 13 4. Use of the design basis threats and representative threat statements in the regulatory
14 framework; and
- 15 5. Maintenance of nuclear security threat assessment documentation, representative threat
16 statements and design basis threats.

17 3.2. During Step 1, according to the legal and regulatory framework of the State, the roles and
18 responsibilities in this process should be defined for the State, the regulatory body and other
19 competent authorities, and operators.

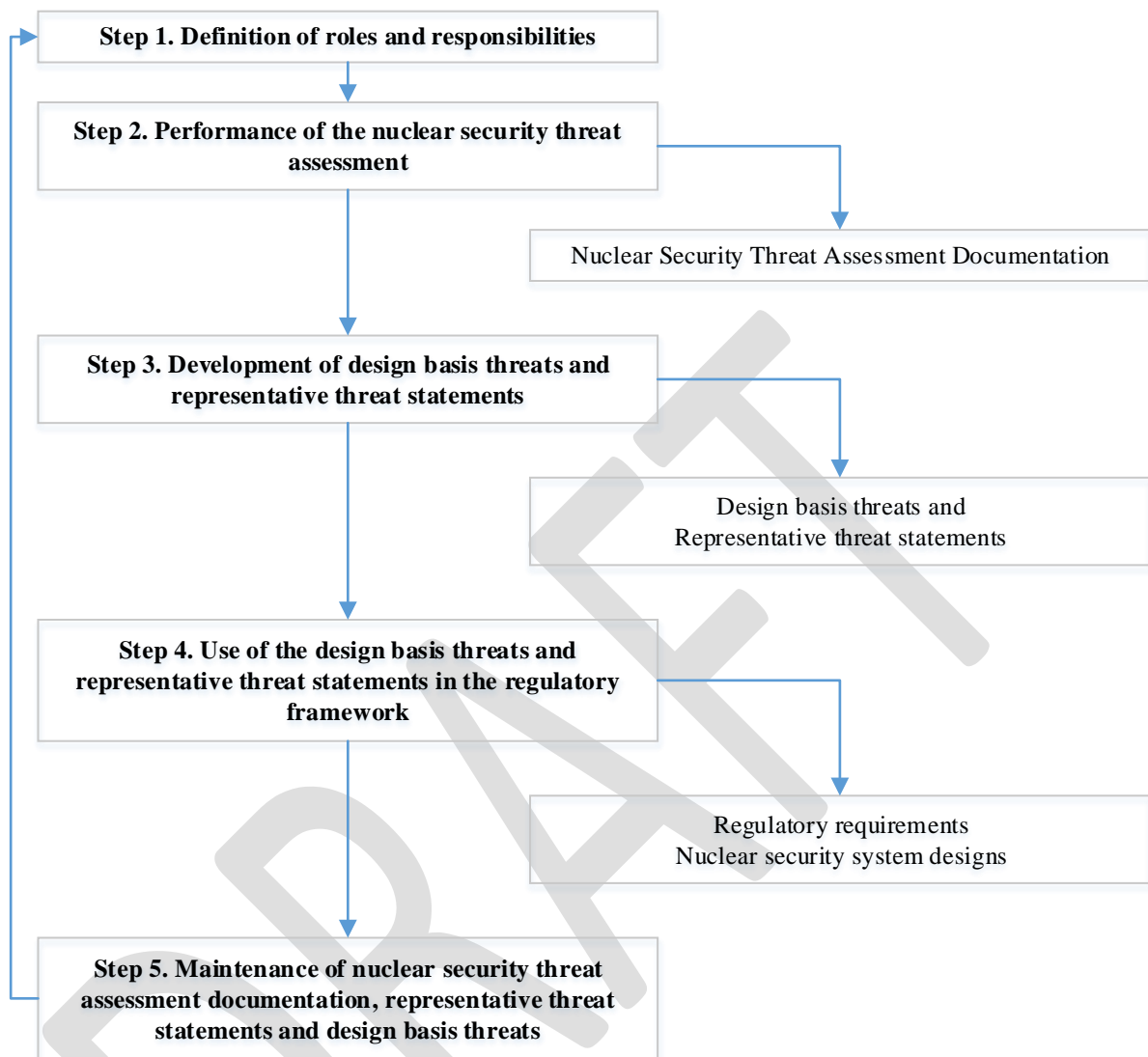


Figure 3.1. Overview of the process

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3.3. At Step 2, during the performance of the nuclear security threat assessment, the competent authority responsible for performing the nuclear security threat assessment, together with other relevant competent authorities should collect threat information, including information from open sources, past nuclear security events as well as security events that occurred in non-nuclear related activities. In addition, IAEA databases, especially the Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB) may be a useful source of threat information. The competent authorities should analyse the collected information and evaluate its potential relevance to nuclear security. The competent authorities should also evaluate the credibility of the threat

1 information and screen out information that is not credible. Based on this information, they
2 should then identify potential adversaries and likelihoods of adversary actions, attributes and
3 characteristics of the potential adversaries and potential targets. Finally, they should evaluate
4 whether or not specific adversary capabilities are relevant to potential targets, and prepare the
5 nuclear security threat assessment documentation.

6 3.4. At Step 3, using the nuclear security threat assessment documentation, the competent
7 authority responsible for developing the threat statements - in agreement with other competent
8 authorities, as appropriate - should develop material, facility or activity-specific design basis
9 threats and/or develop representative threat statements applicable to different types, categories
10 of nuclear and other radioactive materials, associated facilities and activities.

11 3.5. At Step 4, depending on the regulatory approach followed, the regulatory body should
12 take one of two approaches:

13 (a) Disseminate design basis threats to relevant operators, who should then design their
14 nuclear security systems through the development of facility specific attack scenarios
15 to counter the design basis threats and to meet the security objectives established in
16 the State's legal framework; or

17 (b) Develop prescriptive regulatory requirements based on the representative threat
18 statements and the security objectives established in the State's legal framework, and
19 ensure that operators implement nuclear security systems and measures in compliance
20 with these requirements.

21 3.6. At Step 5, the competent authorities should review, and if appropriate revise the nuclear
22 security threat assessment documentation, the design basis threats and the representative threat
23 statements. The determination of whether it is appropriate to revise these documents could be
24 made according to a defined review cycle, in the event of a change in the threat environment,
25 and/or based on lessons learned following a nuclear security event. In the case of new or
26 emerging nuclear security threats requiring immediate consideration, the competent authorities
27 together with the operators, should take the necessary actions to manage these nuclear security
28 threats.

1 3.7. In Sections 4-8 of this publication, each of these steps will be discussed in more detail,
2 including more specific guidance for States, competent authorities and operators in putting
3 these steps into practice.

4 **4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

5 4.1. The State, the competent authorities, including the regulatory body, and operators have
6 roles and responsibilities related to the nuclear security threat assessment and the development
7 of the design basis threats and/or representative threat statements. These roles and
8 responsibilities should be clearly defined prior to beginning work on the nuclear security threat
9 assessment.

10 4.2. Guidance on defining these roles and responsibilities is provided in the sub-sections to
11 follow.

12 **STATE**

13 4.3. According to Ref. [1], “The objective of a State’s nuclear security regime is to protect
14 persons, property, society, and the environment from harmful consequences of a nuclear
15 security event.” Later in this publication, it is noted that “Responsibility rests with the State for
16 meeting [this] objective.”

17 4.4. With respect to the nuclear security threat assessment process and development, use and
18 maintenance of the design basis threats and/or representative threat statements, the State is
19 responsible for assigning competent authorities who are leading and participating in

- 20 – Performing a nuclear security threat assessment, maintaining a nuclear security threat
21 assessment documentation;
- 22 – Developing and maintaining design basis threats and/or representative threat statements;
- 23 – Using the design basis threats and/or representative threat statements⁴.

⁴ The State may assign different competent authorities to lead the different processes; however, the roles and responsibilities should be clearly defined and the coordination mechanism among competent authorities should be well established.

1 4.5. The State shall ensure that the hazard assessment, providing basis for a graded approach
2 in preparedness and response for a nuclear or radiological emergency, includes consideration
3 of the results of nuclear security threat assessment [11].

4 COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

5 4.6. Competent authorities should be involved in the nuclear security threat assessment
6 process in order to enable the identification of a full range of credible threats to be considered
7 in the nuclear security threat assessment.

8 4.7. Relevant expertise for gathering and assessing credible threats might exist in several
9 organizations, such as intelligence organizations, a State's ministry of foreign affairs, cyber
10 security centres, law enforcement agencies and military bodies. Such organizations are familiar
11 with the processes of collecting and analysing intelligence information and are skilled in
12 making the necessary judgments. In addition, they may have access to sources of information,
13 including information from international liaisons.

14 4.8. The responsibilities of competent authorities should include:

- 15 (a) Collecting and sharing information on potential threats;
- 16 (b) Analysing the available threat information to ensure its credibility;
- 17 (c) Developing design basis threats and/or representative threat statements based on the
18 nuclear security threat assessment documentation;
- 19 (d)
- 20 (e) Coordinating with other competent authorities to determine what subset of credible
21 threats is applicable to nuclear infrastructure;
- 22 (f) Maintaining the nuclear security threat assessment documentation, as well as design
23 basis threats and representative threat statements;
- 24 (g) Sharing the nuclear security threat assessment documentation, as appropriate, with
25 relevant emergency response organisations;

1 (h) Considering the nuclear security threat assessment when performing hazard
2 assessment [12].

3 4.9. A variety of additional competent authorities (for example, the national and local police
4 authorities, armed forces, border control authorities and customs authorities) play a part in
5 protecting against threats related nuclear security, either on their own or in conjunction with
6 others. Moreover, they might have responsibilities for providing support to the operator during
7 a nuclear security event. Such competent authorities should be involved or consulted in the
8 process to develop the design basis threats and representative threat statements, as well as the
9 regulatory requirements.

10 REGULATORY BODY

11 4.10. With respect to the nuclear security threat assessment process and development, use and
12 maintenance of the design basis threats and/or representative threat statements, the regulatory
13 body, in coordination with other competent authorities as appropriate, is responsible for:

14 (a) Developing prescriptive requirements for operators based on the representative threat
15 statements, and/or performance based requirements for and providing the design basis
16 threats to operators to be used for developing attack scenarios and designing nuclear
17 security systems and measures;

18 (b) Ensuring that operators review appropriately and, as necessary, revise the emergency
19 arrangements taking account of the design basis threats.

20 OPERATORS

21 4.11. The operators should implement nuclear security systems and measures that:

22 (a) meet the regulatory requirements; and/or

23 (b) protect against a range of facility or activity-specific attack scenarios developed based
24 on the design basis threat.

1 4.12. The operators' knowledge of the financial, operational and safety impact of specific
2 measures may influence the division of responsibility between the operator and competent
3 authorities for security measures. The operators' input, either formal or informal, should be
4 taken into consideration in developing the design basis threats, representative threat statements
5 and regulatory requirements. Specifically, the operators should provide:

- 6 (a) Input on facility and activity specific threats related to nuclear security that should be
7 considered for inclusion in the design basis threats and/or representative threat
8 statements;
- 9 (b) Feedback to the regulatory body, as requested, concerning the financial, operational,
10 security and safety impact of potential decisions regarding the design basis threats
11 and/or representative threat statements as well as regulatory requirements; and
- 12 (c) Supporting information regarding attack scenarios and adversary attributes and
13 characteristics derived from cyber, physical and blended attacks that may have
14 occurred.

15 **5. PERFORMING A NUCLEAR SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT**

16 5.1. The aim of a nuclear security threat assessment is to provide a credible assessment of
17 potential threats, describing the motivations, intentions and capabilities of potential
18 adversaries; however, it is not intended to describe specific attack scenarios.

19 5.2. A sufficiently detailed and specific description of the potential threat can be used to
20 determine the level of protection that is appropriate and sufficient for nuclear and other
21 radioactive material, associated facilities and activities and provides a basis upon which the
22 nuclear security system can be effectively designed.

23 5.3. During a nuclear security threat assessment process, information regarding existing or
24 credible potential threats is collected and analysed, and information on threat attributes and
25 characteristics is compiled and aggregated. The output of the nuclear security threat assessment
26 is a detailed description of the threat related to nuclear security referred to as the nuclear
27 security threat assessment documentation. Multiple organizations with different areas of

1 expertise and responsibility should work closely together to collect and analyse this
2 information, and close working relationships between all relevant organizations are needed for
3 the nuclear security threat assessment to be effective.

4 5.4. The actions in the process of nuclear security threat assessment are described in detail in
5 the following sub-sections: the collection, analysis of information and intelligence, and the
6 development of the nuclear security threat assessment documentation.

7 COLLECTION OF RELEVANT THREAT INFORMATION

8 5.5. As the first action in the nuclear security threat assessment process, a comprehensive
9 collection should be compiled of information and intelligence concerning all potential
10 adversaries as well as their motivations, intentions and capabilities. This information and
11 intelligence can include both sensitive and non-sensitive information, and should address both
12 physical and cyber capabilities of potential insider and external threats.

13 5.6. To establish this collection, potential sources of information should be identified and
14 relevant information should be collected as well as the sensitivity of the information and needed
15 intelligence that should be considered. If not already in place, a mechanism to share threat
16 information should be established that accounts for the protection of sensitive information.
17 Written agreements or arrangements might be needed to establish relationships for sharing
18 threat information.

19 5.7. Intelligence and other sources of information related to nuclear security threats might
20 provide sufficient information to design a nuclear security system, however, due to the
21 limitations of intelligence and the dynamic nature of threats, nuclear security systems designed
22 only for the current known threats related to nuclear security may not be effective against future
23 threats.

24 5.8. The nuclear security threat assessment, as far as possible, should not rely on a single
25 source. The use of intelligence from multiple sources combined into a single coherent
26 assessment will result in the most comprehensive, reliable and robust nuclear security threat
27 assessment. Thus, all credible and relevant national and international sources of information
28 and intelligence should be considered in the collection of data.

1 5.9. Sources of information and intelligence should include, as appropriate, intelligence
2 organizations, cyber security organizations, law enforcement agencies, INTERPOL, the
3 regulatory body and other competent authorities, customs and border agencies, the military,
4 transportation carriers and shippers, official government reporting from other governmental
5 sources, significant incident reporting by operators, databases maintained by international
6 organizations and open source reporting.

7 5.10. Domestic and international technical authorities, commercial entities and open databases
8 could also be used as sources of additional information about potential cyber threats. Operators
9 may also have information on cyber threats and their attributes and characteristics that can be
10 used.

11 5.11. Relevant information regarding adversary attributes and characteristics for analogous
12 high-value, high-consequence critical infrastructure should also be considered.

13 5.12. Information collected should include details on recent and historical nuclear security
14 events (including those involving computer security), if applicable, and should address the
15 motivation, capability and intent of potential adversaries. Information that may indicate an
16 intent to attack high value or hardened assets and facilities should also be considered, such as
17 evidence of training.

18 5.13. The information collection action should seek to identify, among others, the following
19 relevant threats:

20 (a) Global, domestic and local threats;

21 (b) The potential for physical, cyber and blended attacks; and

22 (c) Insider threats, external adversaries and threats resulting from collusion of insider
23 threats and external adversaries.

24 Credible adversary capabilities, even if not yet demonstrated, should also be considered, as
25 well as adversary attack persistence, technological evolution, frequency of attacks, and supply
26 chain concerns (i.e. introducing corrupted hardware and/or software during supply).

1 ANALYSIS

2 5.14. Once the collection of relevant threat information is complete, this information should
3 then be organized using information management tools to index and sort it prior to beginning
4 to conduct the analysis. Effectively organizing all available information, including intelligence
5 information, ensures that the needed information is present in the collection and available to be
6 analysed. After the threat information has been organized, it should be analysed to identify and
7 document the credible motives, intentions and capabilities of potential threats related to nuclear
8 security.

9 5.15. The comprehensiveness of the information collected and the accuracy of the analysis can
10 affect the confidence placed in the design basis threats and representative threat statements
11 resulting from the process.

12 5.16. Information collection and analysis are continuous, concurrent actions. Analysis will
13 often demonstrate the need for more information and identify previously unknown or emerging
14 threats, leading to a need for further information collection. Analysis of the threat information
15 involves evaluating what is known based on that information, and making a judgment about
16 how adversaries might behave in the future.

17 5.17. During the analysis process, the credibility of the information used to perform the nuclear
18 security threat assessment should be evaluated. Information provided by law enforcement and
19 intelligence agencies should be accompanied by a judgement on how much confidence can be
20 attached to it. Information derived from sources that are known to have access to the originator
21 of the information and that are judged to be transmitting it accurately and reliably are the most
22 credible. Open source information (e.g. media) should be used only when it is judged to be
23 accurate and factual. The degree of confidence in any information should be taken into account
24 when deciding how that information will be used later. An evaluation of the credibility of
25 information might result in some information being excluded as not relevant to the analysis
26 and might also identify information gaps that should be considered.

1 5.18. The nuclear security threat assessment process should consider at least the following
2 attributes and characteristics for each identified insider and external threat, although there may
3 not be data available for all the listed attributes and characteristics for each threat:

- 4 (a) Motivation, such as political, financial, ideological or personal motivation;
- 5 (b) Attack persistence;
- 6 (c) Dedication, including level of risk aversion and willingness to put one's own life at
7 risk;
- 8 (d) Experience, including the characterization of past nuclear security events that have
9 occurred;
- 10 (e) Intentions, such as radiological sabotage of material or of a facility, unauthorized
11 removal of nuclear or other radioactive material, and theft of sensitive information;
- 12 (f) Group size, including the attack force, coordination personnel and support personnel;
- 13 (g) Weapon types, numbers and availability;
- 14 (h) Explosive types, quantities, availability, triggering sophistication, and whether they
15 would be acquired or improvised;
- 16 (i) Tools, such as mechanical, thermal, manual, power, electronic, software,
17 electromagnetic and communications equipment;
- 18 (j) Modes of transportation, including public, private, land, sea, air, and vehicle type,
19 number, and availability;
- 20 (k) Mode of access, both cyber and physical;
- 21 (l) Tactics, such as the potential for the use of stealth, deception or force, reconnaissance
22 activities or social engineering;
- 23 (m) Planning skills, such as the ability to plan a diversion, adversaries attacking
24 simultaneously in smaller groups, and/or knowledge of the facility layout;

- 1 (n) Technical skills, including skills in engineering, use of explosives, chemicals,
2 communications, military or paramilitary experience;
- 3 (o) Advanced computer and computer security skills, such as knowledge of: control
4 systems, cyber security, reverse engineering and vulnerability testing of operating
5 systems and applications, hacking communication protocol engineering, vulnerability
6 verification and exploitation techniques, capabilities in creating and maintaining
7 social engineering campaigns, methods and frameworks for source obfuscation,
8 redirection of attribution, networks surveillance and traffic manipulation techniques;
- 9 (p) Knowledge, such as target characteristics, site plans and procedures, security plans,
10 security measures, safety measures and radiation protection procedures, operations,
11 potential uses of nuclear or other radioactive material, possible entry points for cyber
12 attacks, vendor support procedures and plans, supply chain and procurement
13 procedures, transportation procedures;
- 14 (q) Funding sources, amounts, and availability;
- 15 (r) Insider threat concerns, including potential for collusion, passive or active insider
16 involvement, violent or non-violent insider engagement and number of insider threats;
- 17 (s) Support structure, such as the presence or absence of local sympathizers, support
18 organizations or logistical support.

19 In addition to addressing the attributes and characteristics listed, the nuclear security threat
20 assessment should attempt to address the compilation and aggregation of the attributes and
21 characteristics.

22 OUTPUT: NUCLEAR SECURITY THREAT ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

23 5.19. The output of the nuclear security threat assessment process is the nuclear security threat
24 assessment documentation, which describes the overall threat environment for nuclear security
25 and all known credible threats that should to be taken into consideration. The supporting

1 analytical narrative should provide as much detail as possible about these threats and the
2 credibility of the information.

3 5.20. Both the nuclear security threat assessment documentation and the details of intelligence
4 sources are typically protected as sensitive information.

5 **6. DEVELOPMENT OF DESIGN BASIS THREATS AND REPRESENTATIVE** 6 **THREAT STATEMENTS**

7 6.1. As described in the previous section, the nuclear security threat assessment process results
8 in the production of a nuclear security threat assessment documentation. Using this nuclear
9 security threat assessment documentation as a basis, threat statements that set out credible
10 adversaries that facilities and activities using or storing nuclear or other radioactive material
11 are to protect against, as well as the attributes and characteristics of these adversaries, in the
12 form of either design basis threats or representative threat statements can be developed.
13 Guidance for developing design basis threats and representative threat statements using nuclear
14 security threat assessment documentation is provided in the following sub-sections.

15 **REGULATORY APPROACHES AND THREAT STATEMENTS**

16 6.2. Three different regulatory approaches are possible when regulating an operator: the
17 performance-based approach, the prescriptive approach or the combined approach. In the
18 performance-based approach, the operator should comply with the nuclear security objectives
19 defined by the State taking into account the design basis threat disseminated by the regulatory
20 body. The operator should design and implement a nuclear security system that meets those
21 objectives, achieving a specified level of effectiveness in protecting against malicious acts and
22 providing contingency responses. [8] In the prescriptive approach, the regulatory body
23 establishes requirements for specific nuclear security measures that are necessary to meet the
24 defined nuclear security objectives for each category of nuclear material and each level of
25 potential radiological consequences. These provide a set of 'baseline' measures for the operator
26 to implement. [8] The combined approach includes elements from both the prescriptive and

1 performance-based methods. [8] Further detailed information on each of these regulatory
2 approaches can be found in Ref. [8] and [9].

3 6.3. As noted in Section 2 of this publication, representative threat statements are typically
4 used to develop prescriptive regulatory requirements for a certain subset of materials, activities
5 and/or facilities to be protected, while design basis threats are typically defined for specific
6 facilities or activities. The regulatory body should adopt the regulatory approach and
7 accompanying choice of representative threat statements or design basis threats that best suits
8 the State's needs and consistent with its legal and regulatory framework. The regulatory body
9 should have its chosen approach approved by the government, since there will likely be
10 resource implications associated with the choice.

11 6.4. The use of a design basis threat in conjunction with a performance-based regulatory
12 approach as the basis for designing nuclear security systems and measures can lead to an
13 efficient allocation of resources for protection by reducing the uncertainty that might otherwise
14 exist in establishing specific requirements for protection against nuclear security threats. The
15 use of a performance-based approach and a design basis threat not only allows for
16 customization of the design of the nuclear security system to address unique features of the
17 material, activities or facilities (including their industrial and control systems), but also sets a
18 baseline against which the need for modifications in nuclear security systems and measures can
19 be evaluated and provides a clear basis for defining the nuclear security responsibilities of the
20 operator. The use of a design basis threat also provides a more detailed and precise technical
21 basis for design and evaluation criteria and can provide greater assurance that the protection is
22 sufficient.

23 6.5. However, there are also costs associated with this choice: notably, the use of a design
24 basis threat in conjunction with a performance-based approach means that greater resources
25 and competences will be needed on the part of the regulatory body and the operator. The
26 decision to pursue a design basis threat may be influenced by the limited availability of the
27 necessary capabilities and resources in the regulatory body for defining and at the operator
28 level for effectively using a design basis threat to design security systems and measures.
29 However, if the criteria discussed in the following paragraph suggest that the level of assurance

1 associated with a design basis threat is needed, the State should seek to make the necessary
2 resources and capabilities available.

3 6.6. States should consider using the following criteria to determine whether or not to use a
4 design basis threat. First, the State's physical protection requirements for nuclear material and
5 nuclear facilities should be based on a design basis threat specifically for unauthorized removal
6 of Category I nuclear material and sabotage of nuclear material and nuclear facilities that has
7 potentially high radiological consequences [2]. A State should also consider the development
8 of a design basis threat if it has determined that the potential consequences of a malicious act
9 would be severe.

10 6.7. Development of a design basis threat should be considered for protection of assets with
11 which lesser consequences are associated if:

12 (a) The nuclear security threat assessment documentation indicates the existence of a
13 threat with known intent to commit a malicious act affecting the asset under
14 consideration;

15 (b) The nuclear security threat assessment documentation indicates a highly capable
16 threat for which intent is unknown; or

17 (c) There is too much uncertainty in the nuclear security threat assessment owing to a
18 limited amount of data or a low level of confidence in the sources of the data.

19 6.8. For new facilities, a State may wish to consider the possible long-term advantages of
20 designing protection against more conservative threat attributes and characteristics, given the
21 cost implications of upgrades added after the facility is in operation.

22 6.9. Regardless of whether a design basis threat in conjunction with a performance based
23 regulatory approach is used, or a representative threat statement in conjunction with a
24 prescriptive regulatory approach, a threat related basis should be used to design security
25 systems and measures for nuclear and other radioactive material, associated facilities and
26 activities.

1 DEVELOPING A DESIGN BASIS THREAT

2 6.10. A design basis threat should be developed from the nuclear security threat assessment
3 documentation using a process consisting of five actions:

- 4 1. Screening of the nuclear threat assessment documentation for relevant nuclear security
5 threats with motivation, intention and/or capability to commit a malicious act;
- 6 2. Collating adversary attributes and characteristics;
- 7 3. Modifying collated adversary attributes and characteristics on the basis of relevant
8 policy considerations;
- 9 4. Tailoring adversary attributes and characteristics to a specific facility, activity; and
- 10 5. Finalization of the design basis threat.

11 6.11. Using the nuclear security threat assessment documentation as a basis for the design
12 basis threat helps to ensure that the resulting design basis threat is realistic and credible.

13 **Screening the nuclear security threat assessment documentation**

14 6.12. First of all, the targets that could be associated with unacceptable consequences, as
15 defined by the State, as a result of malicious acts, should be identified. These targets should
16 then be considered in conjunction with the attributes and characteristics of the postulated
17 adversaries described in the nuclear security threat assessment document in order to determine
18 threats that are relevant to the targets and may cause unacceptable consequences. This
19 consideration should include a review of the capabilities, motivations and intentions of the
20 postulated adversaries with respect to these targets.

21 6.13. The adversaries described in the nuclear security threat assessment document should be
22 reviewed to determine whether or not they possess the capabilities necessary to commit a
23 malicious act that could lead to unacceptable consequences. If the capabilities of a given
24 adversary are not sufficient to commit an act that could lead to unacceptable consequences,
25 then that adversary should be excluded from further consideration; however, considerable

1 caution should be exercised when making this decision. Notably, a nuclear security threat
2 should not be excluded from further consideration on the basis that the existing nuclear security
3 system in place to protect a facility or activity is sufficient to repel the adversary. In fact,
4 existing nuclear security measures can be ignored during the development of a design basis
5 threat⁵.

6 6.14. After the review of capabilities, each adversary is further reviewed to determine if, in
7 addition to having sufficient capabilities to commit a malicious act, it is also believed to have
8 sufficient motivation or the intent to commit such an act. If neither sufficient motivation nor
9 intent is determined to be present, the adversary might be excluded from further consideration;
10 however, care must be exercised when excluding a highly capable threat solely on the basis of
11 perceived lack of motivation or intent. The regulatory body should determine whether or not
12 the adversary's perceived motivation is inconsistent with the consequences of such a malicious
13 act and whether the degree of confidence in the data used to assess its motivation and intent is
14 sufficient. The decision to exclude the adversary should then be based on these factors.

15 6.15. The reasons for the exclusion of any adversary present in the nuclear security threat
16 assessment documentation from further consideration for the design basis threat should be well
17 documented. Any adversary excluded from consideration should be considered again if new
18 information changing the reasons for the exclusion is acquired at a later time.

19 6.16. At the end of the screening process, a list of all credible adversaries that are capable and
20 may be motivated or may have the intention to commit a malicious act leading to unacceptable
21 consequences should be produced.

22 **Collating adversary attributes and characteristics**

23 6.17. Each of the various relevant adversaries identified in the nuclear security threat
24 assessment should be associated with an appropriate adversary type (e.g. terrorists, criminals,
25 activists or extremists) to be described in the design basis threat and credible adversary
26 descriptions should be developed. The threat meant by an adversary type in the design basis

⁵ These nuclear security measures might later be removed by an operator, if the design basis threat does not include threat attributes and characteristics against which they would be effective and needed.

1 threat should represent the range of adversary attributes and characteristics belonging to those
2 adversaries associated with the adversary type.

3 6.18. The relevant adversary attributes and characteristics associated with a given adversary
4 type should be collated. The collated adversary attributes and characteristics should not simply
5 represent a combination of the most extreme attributes and characteristics of each relevant
6 adversary as this may result in an unrealistic definition of the adversary. In fact, some of these
7 attributes and characteristics may even be mutually incompatible.

8 **Modifying collated adversary attributes and characteristics to account for policy factors**

9 6.19. The collated adversary attributes and characteristics should be assessed in light of the
10 degree of conservatism desired in the nuclear security threat assessment, the cost-benefit-
11 consequence trade-offs that need to be made, and other policy factors identified. This may
12 result in adjustments to the collated adversary attributes and characteristics in order to enable
13 a sustainable level of security, and may result in a change in the level of adversary capabilities.

14 6.20. First, the collated adversary attributes and characteristics may be adjusted to
15 accommodate the degree of conservatism desired in the nuclear security threat assessment. For
16 example, they may be adjusted to compensate for uncertainty and different interpretations in
17 the data used in the nuclear security threat assessment; to ensure the effectiveness of the
18 operators' nuclear security systems and measures as the nuclear security threat evolves with
19 time; or to include attributes and characteristics of potential threats about which there is no
20 current intelligence because it is prudent to do so.

21 6.21. In addition, cost–benefit–consequence trade-offs should be accounted for in the
22 definition of the collated adversary attributes and characteristics. This includes balancing the
23 benefit to society of the assets, the consequences for society of successful malicious acts against
24 the assets, and the costs to society of reducing the risks of such acts and implementing
25 appropriate nuclear security measures comparable with that for other assets and infrastructure
26 of similar consequence severity, such as protection for explosives, chemicals, and biological
27 agents.

1 6.22. Other policy factors may also need to be accounted for, such as the division of nuclear
2 security responsibilities between the State and operators; the impact of decisions made
3 regarding risk acceptance on public confidence; the contribution to public welfare of the assets
4 (e.g. nuclear or radioactive material) being protected; the confidence of neighbouring States in
5 a State's nuclear security; and ongoing threat situations in neighbouring States.

6 6.23. Conservatism and the other policy factors noted here are likely to result in an increase
7 in the capability level of collated adversary attributes and characteristics in the design basis
8 threat, whereas cost-benefit trade-offs will likely decrease them.

9 **Tailoring adversary attributes and characteristics to specific facilities and activities**

10 6.24. Once the representative adversary attributes and characteristics have been broadly
11 defined, they may be tailored to specific facilities and activities. For facilities, site location
12 and accessibility, specific design features of the facility, the operating practices at the facility
13 and local threats could be considered. For activities, operating practices, the mode and route of
14 transport, as well as specific local threats could be considered.

15 **Finalization of the design basis threat**

16 6.25. Prior to using a design basis threat in the regulatory framework, the comments from other
17 competent authorities and affected parties should be considered. The final decision on the
18 content of a design basis threat and the responsibility for this content, should rest with the
19 competent authority assigned to lead the development process by the State.

20 6.26. A model of a design basis threat is provided as Annex 1.

21 **DEVELOPING A REPRESENTATIVE THREAT STATEMENT**

22 6.27. As with a design basis threat, a representative threat statement should also be developed
23 based on the nuclear security threat assessment documentation. The development process of a
24 representative threat statement follows the approach described for a design basis threat, but is
25 typically less rigorous at each stage, and the process of the development of a representative

1 threat statement might involve fewer organizations. Moreover, adversary attributes and
2 characteristics are not tailored to a specific facility or activity.

3 6.28. The process of development of a representative threat statement should include the
4 following four steps:

- 5 1. Screening the nuclear security threat assessment documentation to identify adversaries
6 that possess the capabilities necessary to commit a malicious act that could lead to
7 unacceptable consequences as well as the motivation or intent to do so;
- 8 2. Grouping of attributes and characteristics of adversaries into sets of representative
9 adversary attributes and characteristics;
- 10 3. Modification of representative adversary attributes and characteristics based on policy
11 factors; and
- 12 4. Finalization of the representative threat statement.

13 THREATS WITHIN AND BEYOND THE DESIGN BASIS THREAT

14 6.29. During the nuclear security threat assessment process, a broad range of adversary threat
15 capabilities are likely to be identified, ranging from adversaries with low threat capabilities to
16 those with high threat capabilities. For this reason, accounting for current known, actual and
17 prevailing threats, the State will likely need to determine a boundary threat capability level
18 above which threat capabilities are determined to be so high that it would not be appropriate to
19 use these threat capabilities as a basis for design requirements for nuclear security systems and
20 measures, and thus they would not be appropriate for use in a threat statement.

21 6.30. The design basis threats and representative threat statements should then be based on
22 adversaries with capabilities that fall below this cutoff, with the implication that the operator
23 does not have prime responsibility for protection against adversaries with higher capabilities.
24 Because the overall responsibility for nuclear security rests with the State, responsibility for
25 countering adversaries with capabilities above this cutoff level will rest primarily with the
26 State. This is a decision regarding the appropriate level of nuclear security risk to protect

1 against, and the determination will need to balance cost, operational impact and other
2 considerations.

3

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1 (f) When the security plan is approved, the operator should put its nuclear security system
2 and measures in place according to this plan.

3 7.4. Relevant emergency response organizations including the regulatory body and the
4 operator should use the results of the nuclear security threat assessment in the hazard
5 assessment to allow for adequate emergency arrangements to be established for preparedness
6 and response for a nuclear or radiological emergency triggered by a nuclear security event and
7 for a coordinated and integrated response.

8 PRESCRIPTIVE REGULATORY APPROACH

9 7.5. In a prescriptive regulatory approach, the representative threat statements appropriate to
10 the category of material, type of facility or activity should be used by the regulatory body to
11 develop prescriptive regulatory requirements, taking account of nuclear security objectives
12 defined by the State. The prescriptive regulatory requirements should specify required nuclear
13 security systems and measures that, if implemented, would ensure sufficient protection to meet
14 the objectives of the State's nuclear security regime. Guidance that could assist States in
15 developing such prescriptive regulatory requirements can be found in Refs. [4, 5, 8, 9 and 10].

16 7.6. A process for using representative threat statements as part of a prescriptive regulatory
17 approach includes:

18 (a) The regulatory body should develop attack scenarios based on each representative
19 threat statement and design model nuclear security systems and measures for different
20 category of materials, type of facilities and activities;

21 (b) The regulatory body should consider the recommendations and guidance in relevant
22 IAEA NSS publications such as Refs. [4, 5, 8, 9 and 10], as appropriate, and determine
23 whether or not these measures are sufficient for meeting nuclear security objectives
24 or if additional security measures would need to be added to protect against the
25 relevant representative threat statement;

1 (c) The regulatory body, should develop prescriptive regulatory requirements for nuclear
2 security systems and measures, taking account of the model nuclear security measures
3 developed;

4 (d) The operators should implement the nuclear security measures as prescribed by the
5 relevant regulatory requirements.

6 COMBINED APPROACH

7 7.7. As noted in Section 2 and in Refs. [8 and 9], elements of both prescriptive and
8 performance based approaches used in a combined regulatory approach.

9 7.8. The State might apply a performance-based approach for facilities and activities where
10 the benefit outweighs the cost. For example, the State might decide to apply a performance-
11 based approach to certain material, facilities and activities for which greater assurance is
12 appropriate due to the potential consequences that could result from a nuclear security event at
13 these locations. The State may decide to concurrently apply a prescriptive approach to material,
14 facilities and activities where a nuclear security event would result in less severe potential
15 consequences. The State may decide as well that some threats should be addressed with a
16 performance based approach while others are addressed with a prescriptive approach.

17 DEVELOPING ATTACK SCENARIOS

18 7.9. The development of attack scenarios relies on an understanding of how adversary
19 attributes and characteristics might be used to carry out a malicious act, as well as of whether
20 and how different adversaries would interact to carry out such an act.

21 7.10. The attack scenario is a postulated or assumed set of conditions and/or events. Attack
22 scenarios are most commonly used in analysis or assessment to represent possible future
23 conditions and/or events to be modelled, such as a possible nuclear security event. An attack
24 scenario might represent the conditions at a single point in time or a single event, or could
25 comprise a history over time of conditions and/or events (including processes) leading to and/or
26 following from a nuclear security event, including potential delayed impacts.

1 7.11. Attack scenarios should consider all credible combinations of adversary attributes and
2 characteristics defined in a representative threat statement or a design basis threat, including
3 collusion between insiders and external adversaries and combinations of physical and cyber
4 attributes and characteristics, and likely adversary pathways, time and approaches of
5 penetration based on defeat methods and delay times of physical and cyber barriers, as well as
6 defeat methods and detection probabilities of sensors and cyber monitoring.

7 7.12. In particular, cyber involvement in scenarios should be considered. While a cyber attack
8 alone will most likely not lead to unauthorized removal of material, a cyber attack can support
9 the compromise of nuclear security measures that deter, detect, delay and respond to an attack.
10 A cyber attack might also be used to reduce the effectiveness of the technology needed to
11 prevent and detect an attack. A cyber attack might also result in degradation of important safety,
12 security, nuclear material accounting and control, or emergency preparedness and response
13 functions which may lead to sabotage success or provide conditions for successful completion
14 of an attack intended to sabotage equipment.

15 7.13. The restrictions for feasibility of an attack scenario are its complexity, including factors
16 such as the total weight and capabilities of adversary tools needed, the ability of adversaries to
17 hide tools at access control points, the total number of external adversaries, the realism of
18 adversary and defender physical capabilities, the number of insider threats involved and the
19 extent of their collusion, the capability of physical barriers, and the capability of detection
20 technology and cyber monitoring.

21 **8. MAINTENANCE AND REVIEW OF NUCLEAR SECURITY THREAT** 22 **ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION AND THREAT STATEMENTS**

23 8.1. The the nuclear security threat assessment documentation should be periodically reviewed
24 in order to assess if it still presents a comprehensive and properly balanced view of the credible
25 threat to nuclear security in the State.

1 8.2. Design basis threats and representative threat statements may also need to be reviewed
2 due to changes in policy considerations and/or based on experience gained during the design
3 and evaluation of nuclear security systems and measures.

4 8.3. Consideration of new and evolving threat capabilities not known to be directly related to
5 nuclear security could be incorporated in the review of the nuclear security threat assessment
6 document to determine any possible relevance or impact these threats may have on nuclear and
7 other radioactive material, associated facilities and activities.

8 8.4. The periodic review of the nuclear security threat assessment documentation, design basis
9 threats and representative threat statements might be initiated, for example, on a yearly basis.
10 The periodic review should follow the same process as that used to perform the nuclear security
11 threat assessment, and new design basis threats and representative threat statements should be
12 developed, if appropriate.

13 8.5. A number of events may lead to a need for a review of the nuclear security assessment
14 documentation outside the periodic review process. The conditions or events might trigger such
15 a review, including:

- 16 (a) An event or act, internal or external to the State, on State level or in connection with
17 nuclear and other radioactive associated facilities and activities that significantly
18 changes the perception of or actual level of the threat;
- 19 (b) Significant changes in government policy, law or international arrangements that
20 affect the responsibility of the State authorities or the operator, for example, changes
21 involving the use of deadly force, response arrangements or organizational
22 responsibilities;
- 23 (c) Changes in activities or facilities associated with nuclear and other radioactive
24 material that could introduce new or exclude potential consequences, such as
25 construction of a different type of facility, use of material of higher enrichment, a new
26 practice for the use of nuclear or other radioactive material, or repatriation of high
27 enriched uranium, operation with lower category material, nuclear safety
28 improvements;

1 (d) A proposal for review by a competent authority, organization or operator.

2 8.6. A review will not necessarily result in revision of the nuclear security threat assessment
3 documentation, the design basis threats or representative threat statements. However, if the
4 review shows that the nuclear security threat assessment documentation does not adequately
5 consider all credible threats, including new and emerging threats, the threat assessment
6 documentation should be revised with the involvement of all relevant organizations. If there
7 are substantial and fundamental changes in the nuclear security threat assessment
8 documentation, the design basis threats and representative threat statements should also be
9 revised.

10 RESPONDING TO NEW AND EMERGING THREATS

11 8.7. Situations may arise outside of the regular review process in which adversaries are
12 demonstrated to or suspected to possess unexpected physical or cyber attributes that are
13 threatening enough to need immediate action on the part of the State. Information and
14 intelligence may become available on these matters through both official and informal
15 channels.

16 8.8. In addition to the process of developing and maintaining design basis threats and
17 representative threat statements, the regulatory body and the competent authorities should put
18 a process in place for the sharing of threat information among the competent authorities and
19 with relevant operators.

20 8.9. If an operator receives information on such a change in the threat through informal
21 channels, the operator should inform the regulatory body and other competent authorities as
22 appropriate, in order to assess credibility, applicability and severity of the potential impact of
23 this change in the threat and to determine how and how urgently the operator needs to respond.

24 8.10. Establishing a system of pre-determined levels of elevated threat and corresponding pre-
25 determined sets of additional nuclear security measures to be implemented by operators at each
26 level of elevated threat can be used to provide sufficient protection in such situations.

27

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1 [13]

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APPENDIX

A MODEL DESIGN BASIS THREAT

	Armed	Unarmed
Action		
Theft ⁶	Insert yes or no	Insert yes or no
Sabotage ⁷	Insert yes or no	Insert yes or no
Common attributes and characteristics		
Number	Insert a number	Insert a number
Level of funding	Insert low or high	Insert low or high
Insider support	Insert active or passive, and violent or non-violent	Insert active or passive, and violent or non-violent
Tactics	Insert stealth or force	Insert stealth or force
Planning skills	Insert ability to plan a diversion, and/or adversaries attacking simultaneously in smaller groups, and/or knowledge on the facility layout	Insert ability to plan a diversion, and/or adversaries attacking simultaneously in smaller groups, and/or knowledge on the facility layout
Physical attributes and characteristics		
Willingness to kill	Insert yes or no	Insert yes or no
Willingness to die	Insert yes or no	Insert yes or no
Pathway	Insert air, road, rail, water, and/or underground	Insert air, road, rail, water, and/or underground
Type of weapons	Insert automatic weapons, semiautomatic weapons, side arms, and/or knives	Not Applicable
Explosive	Insert the type and quantity of explosive	Not Applicable
Tools	Insert power tools, hand tools, and/or tools available on-site	Insert power tools, hand tools, and/or tools available on-site
Technical skills	Insert sophisticated explosive breaching, disabling communications lines, and/or operating facility equipment	Insert sophisticated explosive breaching, disabling communications lines, and/or operating facility equipment

⁶ May add criteria for the amount of material removed, and/or one-time or protracted theft

⁷ May add criteria for radiological consequences

Contributing insider	Insert security guard, technical maintenance of equipment, and/or material handler	Insert security guard, technical maintenance of equipment, and/or material handler
Cyber attributes and characteristics		
Software tools	Insert standard software tools, malware tools, and/or own developed tools	Insert standard software tools, malware tools, and/or own developed tools
Expertise	Insert social engineering, using commercial tools, develop new software tools; office domain, process control domain, and/or knowledge about the applied IT system	Insert social engineering, using commercial tools, develop new software tools; office domain, process control domain, and/or knowledge about the applied IT system
Hardware tools	Insert notebook, mobile phone, connection to cables, and/or routers	Insert notebook, mobile phone, connection to cables, and/or routers
Ability to influence the supply chain	Insert yes/no	Insert yes/no
Attack persistence	Insert long term, and/or repeated attacking capability	Insert long term, and/or repeated attacking capability
Contributing insider	Insert access authorization, control the processes in I&C systems by normal user, administrator, and/or third party vendor	Insert access authorization, control the processes in I&C systems by normal user, administrator, and/or third party vendor

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