

Inter-Agency Committee on Radiation Safety

An effective tool for harmonization

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Inter-Agency Committee on Radiation Safety



Introduction

Objective / Mandate / Role

Members and observers

Examples for co-operation

Key challenges

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Introduction

- In **1990**, an important step towards international harmonization of radiation protection and safety took place: the **IACRS** was constituted as a forum for consultation on and collaboration in radiation safety matters between international organizations
- Agreement to review the ToR every 4 years and to revise as appropriate (last update in August 2001)
- Regular meetings

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IACRS meetings held in

IACRS meeting no.	Host Organization – City
IACRS 13	IAEA- Vienna
IACRS 12	WHO - Geneva
IACRS 11	PAHO - Washington
IACRS 10	EC - Luxemburg
IACRS 9	NEA/OECD - Paris
IACRS 8	ILO – Geneva
IACRS 7	IAEA – Vienna
IACRS 6	IAEA – Vienna
IACRS 5	FAO – Rome
IACRS 4	PAHO – Washington
IACRS 3	EC – Brussels
IACRS 2	WHO – Geneva
IACRS 1	IAEA - Vienna



OBJECTIVE

To promote consistency and co-ordination of policies with respect to areas of common interest in radiation protection and safety as

- Applying principles, criteria and standards and transferring them into regulatory terms;
- Co-ordinating research and development;
- Advancing capacity building incl. education and training;
- Promoting widespread information and sharing of knowledge;
- Facilitating the transfer of new technology;
- Providing services.



MANDATE / ROLE

To provide a forum for the exchange of information between the agencies/organisations on their respective activities with view to ensuring as far as possible the harmonisation of their respective plans and activities related to radiation safety, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of radiation safety standards and recommendations

To report back to their respective agencies/organizations

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COMPOSITION

UN Agencies/ organizations

UNSCEAR

IAEA

ILO

WHO

PAHO

FAO

Other Agencies/ organizations

NEA/OECD

European Commission

Observers

ICRP

ICRU

IEC

IRPA

ISO



United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)

Review levels, effects & risks of ionizing radiation

Identify emerging issues

Evaluate levels and effects

Improve knowledge

for General Assembly, scientific community & public

Secondary functions:

Recommend appropriate measurement standards

Identify research needs

Send team on request to country concerned about impact of nuclear weapons testing

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International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

IAEA Functions in Radiation & Waste Safety (Article III.A.6)

To facilitate and
service international
conventions and
other undertakings

To establish
standards of
safety

To provide for
the application of
international standards

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International Labour Organization (ILO)

Standard-setting is one of the ILO's major means of action to improve conditions of life and work worldwide.

ILO standards are **Conventions** and **Recommendations** adopted by the International Labour Conference.



World Health Organization (WHO)

- Develops and promotes evidence-based public health policy for 193 Member States (MS) that protects human health and reduces risks from over- exposure to radiation of any origin
- Under the International Health Regulations and Emergency Conventions, has a mandate to provide medical assistance and public health advice in case of radiation accidents or nuclear emergencies
- Builds capacity and provides technical assistance and information to support national programs in the field of radiation protection and radiation health



Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

MAIN DUTIES IN RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH

- To promote the proper **planning and organization** of radiation medicine services into the health system to improve equity, efficacy, efficiency and safety.
- To advise on the **incorporation and utilization** of appropriate technologies in the areas of diagnostic imaging and radiotherapy for the provision of comprehensive health services.
- To promote **QA programs** in diagnostic imaging, radiotherapy and radiation protection areas.
- To advise Governments on regulations/legislation for the protection against undesirable effects of radiation.
- To support the design, organization, execution and evaluation of comprehensive education programs and specific training activities for professional and technical personnel in the field of radiological health

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UN Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- Assist FAO Member States to effectively respond to nuclear emergencies affecting food and agriculture through the development, coordination and implementation of agricultural countermeasures
- Mandate through the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency
- Elaborate provisions of the Basic Safety Standards related to nuclear or radiological emergencies affecting agriculture, including consideration of the *Joint FAO/WHO Codex Guideline Levels for Radionuclides in Foods Contaminated Following a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency for Use in International Trade*
- Participate in inter-agency management arrangements, including the Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan (EPR-JPLAN) of the International Organizations



OECD Nuclear Energy Agency

Under the responsibility of the NEA's Steering Committee, the Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH) contributes to the adoption and maintenance of high standards of protection of workers, members of the public and the environment, supporting its members through its mandate to:

- Provide a high-level forum for exchange of information and transfer of experience;
- Seek international understanding and guidance regarding the interpretation and implementation of the ICRP recommendations and other international RP standards, and to contribute to the development of harmonised positions in this field
- Advance concepts and policies which make the system of radiation protection more simple, transparent and adaptable to the broader social dimensions of decision making in complex radiological situations;
- Keep under review and contribute to the advancement of the state-of-the-art in radiation protection science and technology;
- Promote international co-operative projects

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European Commission

European Atomic Energy Community: Euratom Treaty (1957)

Allow the development of nuclear energy while protecting the Health and Safety of workers and members of the public

- Establish uniform Basic Safety Standards
 - and ensure that they are applied
 - ✓ transposition; implementation; infringement procedure
- Ensure the protection of the “environment”
 - “air, water, soil”
- Research (fission/fusion Framework Programmes)



Examples of co-operation and collaboration

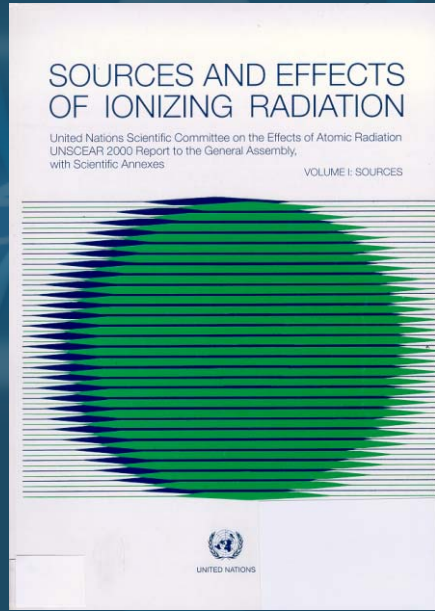
A *Development of Safety Standards – cosponsorship*

- **BSS (SS115)** published in 1996 - jointly sponsored by six int. organizations,
- Safety Requirements entitled Arrangements for Preparedness for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency published in 2002 - jointly sponsored by seven int. organizations,
- Safety Requirements for Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste published in 2006 - jointly sponsored by two int. organizations,
- **Fundamental Safety Principles (SF-1)** published in 2006 jointly sponsored by nine int. organizations.

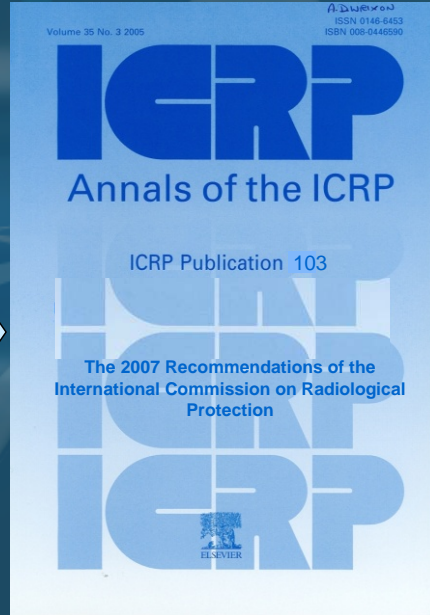


Revision of International Basic Safety Standards

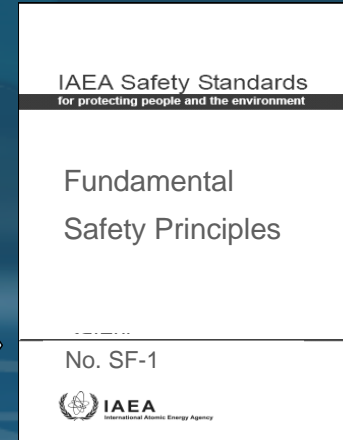
Secretariat of Cosponsors and potential cosponsors



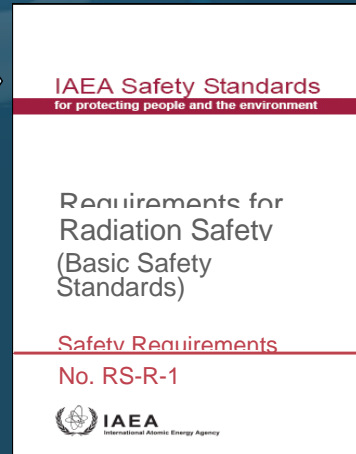
Effects of radiation



Recommendations for protection



Essential principles
(moral obligation)



Essential requirements
(legal obligation)



Examples of co-operation and collaboration

B Ad hoc task groups working on topical issues with common interest

- Security screening



Importance of cosponsorship

Cosponsorship of safety standards strengthen the safety standards in that it is expected that each of the cosponsors uses the safety standards as a basis for their work and in the advice to their Member States.

Cosponsorship leads to the expectation that each of the cosponsoring organizations would be fully integrated into the development of the safety standards and into any further review and revision of a safety standard that they had already co-sponsored and that the co-sponsoring organizations will exchange information in relation the need for the development, or review and revision of safety standards, and on their experience in the application of the safety standards.



KEY CHALLENGES

International agencies/organizations must provide consistent advice and assistance to the various governmental agencies of their Member States. To achieve this, they will need to:

Develop broad agreement, through discussions among IACRS member organisations, concerning the consistent interpretations of the precautionary principle as it applies to specific cases (e.g. radon, worker protection, environmental protection, etc.) to facilitate its harmonious implementation.

Develop and improve effective networking processes and procedures to help to assure consistent and coherent international approaches to RP issues

Continue to identify areas for inter-agency co-operation and collaboration

