

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND ON THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

HARMONIZATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) REGULATIONS FOR THE SAFE TRANSPORT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

Summary of the report of 15th Meeting of the Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC 15)

IAES HQ Vienna, 1-5 october 2007

Transmitted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Transport is an essential element in the life cycle for the use of radioactive material, whether it is for medical, industrial or power generation purposes. The Deputy Director General, Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security established the Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC). This body comprises of senior experts and advises the Deputy Director General on the overall programme for the development, review and revision of standards relating to the safe of transport of radioactive material. One principal function is to achieve consensus, quality, coherence and consistency in the development of international standards for transport safety.

While the development of standards themselves is the primary role of TRANSSC, the committee is also obliged to coordinate it activities with other safety standards committee to ensure transport safety issues are addressed appropriately. TRANSSC works closely with the Secretariat, the other Safety Standards Committees and the Commission of Safety Standards to ensure that its activities fit consistently and coherently within the Agency's strategic work on safety standards.

The fifteenth meeting of TRANSSC was held during 1-5 October 2007. The standard term of office is three years, making this meeting the penultimate in the last TRANSSC term. A total of 80 people, representing 35 Member States and 6 International Organizations attended this meeting.

Ms E. Amaral, Director, Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety, at the IAEA extended a warm welcome to all the meeting participants. In his opening remarks she identified some of the important agenda items that were to be addressed during the meeting week. These

items included the Review of the 2005 Edition of the IAEA Transport Regulations, Beyond the Action Plan: Restructuring the Safety Standards, the Harmonization of the Transport Regulations with the UN Orange Book, Denials of Shipments of Radioactive Material.

Progress with the revision of the Basic Safety Standards since the last meeting of TRANSSEC, in March 2007 was reported. RASSC and WASSC set up working groups to review key thematic areas as occupational exposure, public exposure, medical exposure and exposure in emergency situations. The recommendations of the working groups included: the need to improve clarity, the need to consider a logical ordering of material, the need to achieve a balance throughout the document in the level of detail of the requirements, the need to take into account the new Recommendations of the ICRP and the Fundamental Safety Principles, SF-1, and the need to justify changes from the current Safety Series 115.

Requirements of the Safety Series No. 115 underpin radiation safety in the transport of radioactive material. A Technical Meeting was held in July 2007 and attended by 130 participants from 45 Member States and several international organizations. The detailed recommendations from the meeting were used for the preparation of draft 0.5, which has been posted on the BSS website.

Harmonization of the IAEA Transport Regulations with those of other UN counterpart is an essential element of a sustainable world-wide system of control of all dangerous goods. A resolution from the 2006 IAEA General Conference requested the Secretariat “to develop a dialogue with the United Nations leading to the establishment of a process in which language differences between IAEA and UN Model Regulations may be reconciled”. This has led to continuing co-operation between the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe (UNECE), the IAEA, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The first meeting on harmonization provided proposals for amendments to the UN Model Regulations and to the IAEA’s Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material. The United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNSCETDG) approved the adoption of these amendments on the 15th Revised Edition of the Orange Book, which has now been published and, in turn, the TRANSSEC accepted the proposals for inclusion in the next Edition of the IAEA Transport Regulations, which is now submitted to Member States for the 120-day review.

The draft 2009 Edition of TS-R-1 can be found at:

<http://www-ns.iaea.org/downloads/standards/drafts/ds345.pdf>.

TRANSSEC approved DS387, Draft TS-G-1.6 “Schedules of Provisions of the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material” for submission to the Member States and other organizations for 120-day comments.

Since last TRANSSEC meeting the International Steering Committee on Denials of Shipments of Radioactive Material has held its second meeting. At that meeting the Committee reaffirmed the need to review existing activities, improve understanding of the reasons for denials of shipment and act as the focal point for receiving notifications. Additionally, in July 2007, the Agency completed a regional workshop on this subject in Montevideo, Uruguay. During this workshop,

16 countries in the Latin America region agreed to take a number of actions to address the issue. The results of the workshop were a regional plan of activities to prevent or reduce instances of denials of shipment and to alleviate the hardships to users of radioactive material that has been denied and delayed; milestones in the implementation of the action plan; and the specific roles that could be played by each participant.

A technical meeting was held in May 2007 to resolve comments received by the Secretariat following the 120-day comment by Member States on DS 327 “Draft Safety Guide on Compliance Assurance for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material”. The resulting draft is currently under review by the Steering Committee.

The IAEA Publications Committee approved the Safety Standard Series No. TS-G-1.1 “Advisory Material for the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material 2007 Edition. The publication is expected for the first quarter of 2008.

The 1st Research Coordination Meeting (RCM) of the Coordinated Research Project (CRP) for the appropriate level of regulatory control for the safe transport of naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) was held at the IAEA from 23-26 April 2007. Chief scientific investigators from Brazil, Canada, France, Iran, Israel, Romania, United Kingdom, and United States of America were in attendance. The research areas were shown to provide complete coverage of the subject, including exposures to both the public and workers. The proposals from the respective institutes were presented and discussed. The objective of this first meeting was to ensure there is minimum overlap between the works of each participating organisation and that there would be no gaps in the topics covered.

Issues to be considered for the 2011 Edition of TS-R-1 were discussed by TRANSSC, including recommendation from the second meeting on harmonization UN-IAEA Transport Regulations. TRANSSC set up four working groups to address issues. After much discussion it was agreed to continue with review but will not to revise the current version of the IAEA Transport Regulations, the Secretariat will establish Technical/Consultants Meetings as per the priorities raised and a drafting group will be established, as appropriate, to capture the proposed text for a new edition.
