



Technical Meeting on Radiation Protection and Safety in High Level Background Radiation Areas

**IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**

30th September – 3rd October 2024

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Information Sheet

Introduction

For the purpose of establishing practical requirements for protection of people and the environment, the General Safety Requirements Part 3: Radiation Protection and Safety: of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards (GSR Part 3) consider existing exposure situations, which are situations of exposure that already exist when a decision on the need of control needs to be taken.

Existing exposure situations include a very wide range of exposures arising from natural sources like radon and its progeny, radionuclides of natural origin in commodities such as food, feed, drinking water, construction materials or residual radioactive material in the environment.

Special cases of existing exposure situations are the so-called High Level Background Radiation Areas (hereinafter referred to as “HBRAs”), where people may be exposed chronically to natural sources, receiving an annual effective dose higher than the worldwide average annual effective dose from natural sources of 2.4 mSv.

The requirements of GSR Part 3 Section 5 for existing exposure situations, including HBRAs, are:

- Requirement 47: Responsibilities of the government specific to existing exposure situations
- Requirement 48: Justification for protective actions and optimization of protection and safety
- Requirement 49: Responsibilities for remediation of areas with residual radioactive material
- Requirement 50: Public exposure due to radon indoors
- Requirement 51: Exposure due to radionuclides in commodities
- Requirement 52: Exposure in workplaces.

While several Safety Guides have been developed and published that provide recommendations on how to comply with the above requirements on specific types of existing exposure situations, Member States have expressed the need for an additional general guidance applicable to all existing exposure situations. Therefore, a new General Safety Guide on Radiation Protection and Safety in Existing Exposure Situations is under development (DS544).

Focus of this technical meeting is on **exchanging information** among Member States on their experience in Radiation Protection and Safety regarding the **management of HBRAs**, discussing **main challenges** faced when dealing with these types of existing exposure situations.

Objectives

The objectives of the meeting are to share and discuss Radiation Protection and Safety in the management of HBRAs, to identify main challenges and gaps in existing IAEA guidance relevant to HBRAs, to provide technical input to the development of the new guidance General Safety Guide on Radiation Protection and Safety in Existing Exposure Situations (DS544). Ways to address identified challenges and gaps will be discussed.

Following topics will be addressed:

- identification and characterisation of HBRAs
- responsibilities of regulatory bodies and other relevant authorities as well as of operating organization and other relevant organizations
- establishing Reference Levels for HBRAs
- provisions for the management of existing exposure situations in the legal and regulatory framework
- national protection strategies in HBRAs
- protection of public, workers and the environment in existing exposures situations
- application of graded approach
- justification for protective and remedial actions and optimization of protection and safety
- communication and awareness-raising among public/non-expert groups, and involvement of interested parties in decision-making process.

Expected Outputs

- Sharing of regulatory and operational experiences in Radiation Protection and Safety in the management of HBRAs among Member States
- Identification of major challenges, best practices and needs of Member States in relation to Radiation Protection and Safety in the management of HBRAs
- Possible technical inputs to the development of the new General Safety Guide on Radiation Protection and Safety in Existing Exposure Situations (D544)

Target Audience

Senior staff of the national relevant authorities involved in radiation protection and safety in HBRAs (regulatory bodies, technical support organisations), senior radiation protection experts from relevant industrial sectors and other interested parties.

In addition, participation from relevant international organizations such as United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), World Health Organization (WHO) as well as specialized National or International Committees of Scientific Conferences (e.g., International Committee on High Levels of Natural Radiation and Radon Areas, International Conference on High Level Environmental Radiation Areas) is expected.

Working Language(s)

English.

Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **2 August 2024**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
 - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
 - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register [here](#).
2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
 - Complete or update their personal details under ‘Complete Profile’ and upload the relevant supporting documents;
 - Search for the relevant event under the ‘My Eligible Events’ tab;
 - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled ‘Designating Authority’ (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
 - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
 - Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
 - Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **2 August 2024**.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help](#) page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and technical matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, through the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) by **2 August 2024**.

Venue

The event will be held in the Press Room, Building M of the Vienna International Centre (VIC) where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:

<https://www.iaea.org/events>.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official

photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.