



Regional Workshop on Waste Acceptance Criteria Development to support Review Processes and ensure Compliance with the Radioactive Waste Lifecycle

Hosted by

The Government of Croatia

through the

Fund for Financing the Decommissioning of the Krsko NPP

Zagreb, Croatia

7 to 11 April 2025

Ref. No.: ME-RER9164-EVT2407111

Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the event is to share information and to provide a forum for discussions on practices and challenges associated with the development, implementation and application of waste acceptance criteria for the predisposal management of radioactive waste.

Working Language

The working language of the event will be English.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **17 February 2025** will not be considered.

Project Background

To strengthen competencies, raise awareness and support Member States' efforts in the management of their national radioactive waste inventory to support the continued sustainable use of nuclear technologies.

Expected Outputs

The expected outputs are presentations, practical training and review sessions aiming to share international experience and best practices achieved from developing the WAC through the radioactive waste lifecycle with special focus on the pre-disposal activities and facilities. The workshop will contribute to strengthening Member State representatives' knowledge and understanding of the process of WAC development, implementation and application.

Scope and Nature

Effective radioactive waste management needs to follow the national and international safety standards. Clear organizational structures are required to define responsibilities at every stage of the waste management process, which spans generation, pre-treatment, treatment, conditioning, transportation, storage and final disposal - commonly referred to as the "cradle-to-grave" approach. Since these steps often involve multiple organizations, responsibility for safety, liability and risk are transferred alongside the waste. To ensure smooth transitions, Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) are developed and documented to specify the radiological, mechanical, physical, chemical, and biological characteristics that waste should meet to be processed, stored, or disposed of safely. These criteria ensure that operations at one stage do not hinder future steps and align with the licensing conditions of receiving facilities.

As outlined in the IAEA Safety Standards, WAC are a key component of safety cases and assessments, which validate the operational and long-term safety of waste management facilities. Operators use these criteria to inform waste generators about acceptable waste types and characteristics. Over time, operational requirements may lead to stricter criteria being adopted.

Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) are essential for safe radioactive waste management. They establish the technical and administrative requirements that waste packages must meet before being accepted at storage or disposal facilities. Although disposal is the final step of waste management, WAC apply to all stages, including pre-treatment, treatment, conditioning, storage and disposal. These criteria act as benchmarks for repository operators, storage facility operators and processors, ensuring waste acceptability aligns with the specific conditions and licensing requirements of each facility.

Developing WAC requires a methodical and collaborative approach, involving consultation with all relevant stakeholders. The criteria must be well-defined, practical, verifiable and considerate of their impact on waste processing and waste form development. Additionally, WAC for waste processing and storage should, as far as possible, account for the ultimate requirements of waste disposability, ensuring a seamless transition through all stages of waste management.

Participation

The workshop is open to Member States participating in the RER9164 project and the participants must be nominated by the competent national authority of the Member State and, most specifically, by the Member States' official counterpart for the project. The selected participants will receive prior to the

meeting the relevant information related to the practical review sessions and they are strongly encouraged to propose their national WAC as case study to be discussed during the workshop. A maximum of 3 (three) WAC will be selected for the training / review sessions planned under this event.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

The event is targeted at waste generators, operators of radioactive waste processing and storage facilities in Member States, who are responsible for the management of low and intermediate level waste, waste packages and sealed radioactive sources, and who are directly involved in WAC development, implementation, application and checking compliance against the acceptance requirements for predisposal facilities or activities.

Structure

This five-day Workshop will be structured to include:

1. Topical lectures on practices and trends in development, implementation, and application of waste acceptance criteria.
2. Technical visit to the proposed Croatian storage site, to facilitate the practical review sessions by gaining knowledge on the RWM status in the country.
3. Practical review sessions on WAC development and application in pre-disposal management of radioactive waste, covering stakeholder's responsibility issues, content and structure of WAC, waste qualification process, methods for conformity checking, departures and non-conformities, examples of acceptance requirements for predisposal facilities or activities, others. The workshop participants will be divided into groups and will be required to provide an assessment on the preliminary WAC for the institutional radioactive waste storage in Croatia.

Application Procedure

Candidates wishing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) using the candidate's existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (<https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx>) before proceeding with the event application process below.
2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:
 - a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience ('Profile' tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;
 - b. Download and complete the [Designation of Beneficiary and Emergency Contact Form](#), and upload to InTouch+ ('Profile' tab under the personal section) specifying the document name. If already provided, kindly discard this step; and
 - c. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (EVT2407111) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

NOTE: Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

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

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the meeting from the [IAEA website](#).

NOTE: A medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner dated not more than four months prior to starting date of the event must be submitted by candidates when applying for a) events with a duration exceeding one month, and/or b) all candidates over the age of 65 regardless of the event duration.

Administrative and Financial Arrangements

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected, and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants will receive an allowance from the IAEA sufficient to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses. They will also receive either a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest their residence and the airport nearest the duty station through the IAEA's travel agency AX Travel Management, or a travel allowance, or they will be reimbursed travel by car/bus/train in accordance with IAEA rules for non-staff travel.

Disclaimer of Liability

The organizers of the event do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

Note for female participants

Any woman engaged by the IAEA for work or training should notify the IAEA on becoming aware that she is pregnant.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA approved new International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. The Standards deal specifically with the occupational exposure conditions of female workers by requiring, inter alia, that a female worker should, on becoming aware that she is pregnant, notify her employer in order that her working conditions may be modified, if necessary. This notification shall not be considered a reason to exclude her from work; however, her working conditions, with respect to occupational exposure shall be adapted with a view to ensuring that her embryo or foetus be afforded the same broad level of protection as required for members of the public.

IAEA Contacts

Programme Management Officer (responsible for substantive matters):

Ms Maria del Pilar Murillo Fuentes
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 2600 26038
Fax: +43 1 26007
Email: M.d.P.Murillo-Fuentes@iaea.org

Technical Officer (Scientific Secretary):

Ms Felicia Dragolici
Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology
Department of Nuclear Energy
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 2600 26097
Fax: +43 1 26007
Email: F.N.Dragolici@iaea.org

Administrative Contact (responsible for administrative matters):

Ms Gulnur Erni-Toyalieva
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Tel.: +43 1 2600 22394
Fax: +43 1 26007
Email: G.Erni-Toyalieva@iaea.org