DANGEROUS GOODS PANEL (DGP)

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE

Montreal, 18 to 22 April 2005

Agenda Item 5: Discussion of miscellaneous dangerous goods issues

INFORMATION PAPER ON INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY TRANSPORT SAFETY ACTIVITIES

(Presented by IAEA)

1. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

1.1 TS-R-1, Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material: These Regulations establish standards of safety, which provide an acceptable level of control of the radiation, criticality and thermal hazards to persons, property and the environment that are associated with the transport of radioactive material. These Regulations are based on the principles set forth in both the "Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Sources", IAEA Safety Series No. 120 and the "International Basic Safety Standards for Protection Against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources", IAEA Safety Series No. 115, jointly sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the IAEA, the International Labour Organization, the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization. Compliance with these Regulations is deemed to satisfy the principles of the Basic Safety Standards in respect of transport.

1.2 During the most recent review cycle, the proposed amendments were not major. After the review by Member States, the Agency will convene a final review panel to determine the extent of change, if any, that needs to be made to TS-R-1.

2. SAFETY GUIDES

2.1 TS-G-1.1, Advisory Material for the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material: The primary purpose of the Advisory Material is to provide guidance to users on proven and acceptable ways of complying with and demonstrating compliance with the Regulations. It must be emphasized that the text is not to be construed as being prescriptive. It offers recommendations on ways of complying. It does not try to lay down 'the only way' to comply with any specific provision. Thus TS-G-1.1 is not a stand-alone text. It only has significance when used concurrently as a companion to the IAEA Safety Standards Series No. TS-R-1, Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material.

2.2 TS-G-1.3, Management Systems for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material: The Transport Regulations requires the establishment and implementation of Quality Assurance Programmes, based on international, national or other standards acceptable to the Competent Authority. Such programmes shall encompass design, manufacture, testing, documentation, use, maintenance and inspection of all special form radioactive material, low dispersible radioactive material and packages and for transport and in-transit operations. The objective of this Safety Guide is to provide guidance for implementing the requirements in GS-R-3, the IAEA's requirements document for management systems, for the development and implementation of a management system for transport of radioactive material. This Safety Guide applies to management systems for all activities related to transport of radioactive material including but not limited to design, fabrication, assembly, inspection, test, maintenance, repair, modification, use, procurement, handling, shipping, storage, cleaning, and disposal of radioactive material packaging.

2.3 TS-G-1.5, Radiation Protection Programmes for Transport of Radioactive Material: The purpose of this Safety Guide is to provide guidance on the establishment of Radiation Protection Programmes (RPPs) as they apply to the transport of radioactive material. It is to be noted that radiation protection is only one component with relevance to protection and safety of workers, property and the environment in transport of radioactive material by all shipping modes. Hence, RPPs are generally established and managed with other health and safety disciplines such as industrial hygiene, industrial safety and fire safety and with Management Systems for the Packaging and Transport of Radioactive Material an RPP can refer to these systems when appropriate.

2.4 Proposed TS-G-.1.4, Compliance Assurance for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material: This Safety Standards Series Guide will provide detailed advice for competent authorities wishing to establish programmes to ensure compliance with the regulations governing the safe transport of radioactive material. The advice provided is also useful to those competent authorities with established programmes seeking greater harmony in the international implementation of the Regulations. Additionally, the publication assists the users of the Regulations in their interaction with competent authorities.

3. DENIAL OF SHIPMENTS

3.1 The Agency's actions on denial of shipments are presented in a separate information paper.

4. TRAINING

4.1 The IAEA Training course material on Safe Transport of Radioactive Material, viz., Training Course Series 1 (TCS-1), is based on the Agency's Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material, 1996 Edition (Revised). Following the Agency's revision cycle, the Regulations have been further revised and published as TS- R-1 (2003). The action plan for the Secretariat approved by the Board of Governors in their meeting held in March 2004 requires *The Secretariat to publish updated training materials to reflect the latest requirements given in the "Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material" in the official UN languages.'- Action Plan No. (xvii).* Certain additional brief training programmes for specific target audiences also need to be developed.

1. The training course material has been revised so that the amendments introduced in the 2003 edition were appropriately incorporated in
   - The text of the training course material including the exercises and
   - The PowerPoint projections, which are used in the training course.

2. The overall structure and contents of the training course material have been reviewed and revised, as necessary.
3. The structure and course contents for a brief training programme of duration 4 hours intended for persons handling radioactive cargo have been defined and developed.
4. The structure and course contents for a brief training programme of duration two working days intended for government officials such as port authorities, airport authorities and other public functionaries whose official duties may interface with transport of radioactive cargo have been defined and developed.

4.2 A Consultants' Meeting assisted the Agency in updating (1) the training material and (2) the structure and the contents for (a) a course for cargo handlers and (b) a course for public functionaries.

5. TRANSSC 10 (TRANSPORT SAFETY STANDARDS COMMITTEE)

5.1 TRANSSC 10 convened 7-11 March 2005, to discuss the foregoing issues. An Executive Summary is appended for information.

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APPENDIX

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE CHAIR REPORT OF TRANSSC 10

1. The Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC) is a standing body of senior experts in transport of radioactive material; established by the Deputy Director General, Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security. TRANSSC advises the Deputy Director General on the overall programme for the development, review and revision of standards relating to safety of transport of radioactive material. Its objective is to achieve consensus, quality, coherence and consistency in the development of international standards for transport safety.

2. TRANSSC has a broad role in advising the Agency on safety standards. While the development of standards themselves is the primary role of TRANSSC, TRANSSC also has an obligation to coordinate it activities with other safety standards committee to ensure transport safety issues are addressed and addressed appropriately. Transport is an essential element in the life cycle of the use of radioactive material, whether it is for medical, industrial or power generation purposes. 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.

3. The Tenth Meeting of the Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC) was held 7-11 March 2005. This Meeting was the first meeting of the fourth TRANSSC term. Each TRANSSC term is three years. A total of 64 people, representing 32 Member States and 7 International Organizations attended the 10th meeting.

4. During the meeting two Working Groups were formed. Working Group 1 discussed issues identified in the opening remarks of Mr. Taniguchi, Deputy Director General, Nuclear Safety and Security related to the review and revision cycle, issues in the report of the last Review Panel and a proposal from the UK on the review and revision cycle. The Working Group recommended that TRANSSC continue with the two-year Review Cycle (as directed by DDG); that the Secretariat actively participate in the Agency's efforts to develop a process that expedites incorporation of minor changes and changes of detail into TS-R-1; that TRANSSC develop decision criteria for proposal acceptance and publication of editions respecting the U.N. and modal organizations two-year process; that two TRANSSC meetings will be held each year; that TRANSSC support the concept of CSS approving minor changes without BoG approval; and that TRANSSC request the Secretariat pursue expanding the concept to include changes of detail.

5. Additionally, considering the importance that Mr. Taniguchi had given to this matter the Chair undertook to draft a discussion paper on the review and revision cycle, attaching the relevant working papers and working group reports, and submit them to the Secretariat asking to have them circulated to TRANSSC participants for comment. The Secretariat is then to make the recommendations available during the work undertaken by the Agency to develop a policy on review and revision of TS-R-1. This will occur after the meeting.

6. Working Group 2 deliberated on the denial of shipments and the October seminar on complex technical issues associated with the transport of radioactive material. Regarding denial of shipments it was suggested that the Agency should create a denial of shipments advisory group with

participation by a limited number of representatives (e.g. producers, carriers, port authorities, customs organizations) who may authoritatively speak on the issue and suggest resolutions.

7. With regard to the October seminar it was recommended that (1) the Seminar should be of the nature of providing information to the audience; (2) the target audience should be policy makers/advisors from the Member States or their representatives in the Permanent Missions in Vienna; and (3) the content of the Seminar should be drawn from the topics included in the IAEA Conference on Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material held in Vienna in July 2003 and PATRAM-04 held in Berlin in 2004.

8. During the meeting TRANSSC was asked to approve five documents for submission to Member States for 120-day comments. These documents are "The Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material", TS-R-1, 2007 Edition; "Advisory Material for the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material", TS-G-1.1, both the combined 2003 and 2005 Edition, and the 2007 Edition; the proposed "Safety Guide for Management Systems for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material", TS-G-1.3 and the proposed "Safety Guide for Radiation Protection Programmes in Transport" TS-G-1.5. Finally, a Document Preparation Profile (DPP) for a new Safety Guide on compliance assurance to replace existing Safety Series 113 was approved by TRANSSC.

9. The number of recommendations will require substantial Secretary effort to accomplish. The Secretariat is expected to report the status at the next meeting in September 2005.

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