

Regulatory Development Challenges and Opportunities for the Safe and Secure Transport of Radioactive Materials

Drafting regulations for transport safety and transport security achieve two separate objectives, which can lead to divergent outcomes. With transport safety, the goal is to protect the public from the effects of ionizing radiation, while in contrast, the goal of transport security is to protect the material from malicious actors. While many Member States may have transport safety regulations for radioactive materials, transport security regulatory development is still in its nascent stages globally. Trying to develop harmonized transport safety and transport security regulations could lead to challenges ranging from differences in terminology used in transport safety versus terminology uses in transport security, roles and responsibilities for the variety of stakeholders involved in transport, and finally, the possible role of multiple competent authorities in governing the transport of dangerous goods, such as radioactive materials. While the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is currently developing a process of a methodology for drafting transport security regulations for nuclear and other radioactive materials, any process must address both safety considerations and security requirements. As the most vulnerable part of the life cycle of radioactive materials, the need for harmonized transport safety/transport security regulations is essential. This paper investigates the regulatory elements of the safety-security interface for nuclear and other radioactive material in transport. Examining challenges including use of terms, the role of multiple competent authorities, and practical challenges involved in the safe and secure transport of radioactive material, the paper analyzes the need for integrated regulatory development for the safe and secure transport of these materials.

Gender

State

United States

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Track Classification: PP: Transport of nuclear and other radioactive material: practices, challenges and regulatory issues