

International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources: Accomplishments and Future Endeavours (CN-295)

Abstract ID: IAEA-CN-295-213-POS

SAFETY CONCERN RELATED TO CONSUMER PRODUCTS CONTAINING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS IN MALAYSIA

Content

The practice of deliberately incorporating radioactive substances in consumer products has been established for many years. Users are generally unaware of the presence of radioactivity in these products, as well as the potential harm that radiation exposure can cause if used incorrectly. As a result, it is critical to ensure that consumer products contain as little radioactivity as possible. Furthermore, proper guidelines in designing effective marketing advertisement by the government, manufacturers, sellers, and marketers of products containing radioactive materials, should be produced to ensure all vital information on consumer products containing radioactive substances and their potential risks to the environment and society are communicated effectively to the public. In addition, the Malaysia regulatory bodies i.e. Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) should assess and approve the finished products throughout the manufacturing process before they are made available to the public. Furthermore, consumer product standard specifications should be developed in Malaysia. This ensures that, even if these products are mishandled and treated as household waste, radiation doses to individual members of the public will be small, thus posing a negligible radiation risk. Under these conditions, no special regulatory controls would be necessary to protect the public from unnecessary radiation exposure caused by consumer products. As the market for these consumer products has expanded several international organizations have issued directives and guidance to ensure that the radiation exposure of the public, arising from the use and disposal of these products, is kept as low as reasonably achievable whilst still allowing persons to obtain the benefits offered by the products. As a result, many countries have enacted standards and regulated protection measures, generally with control via exemption levels for radioactive materials in consumer products. This project is executed under IAEA TC programme (MAL9018: Strengthening the Regulatory Infrastructure for Radiation and Nuclear Safety) between International Atomic Energy Agency and Atomic Energy Licensing Board, Malaysia, including expert mission and procurement support.

State

Malaysia

Gender

Male

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Track Classification: 05. Harmonized regulatory approaches (e.g., authorization, inspection and

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enforcement processes) for the safety and security of radioactive sources

Contribution Type: Poster

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