

1. Background and Goal of the present work

Since the promulgation of the law No.142-12 related to nuclear and radiological safety and security and the creation of the Moroccan Agency for Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Security (AMSSNuR) in 2016, the Kingdom of Morocco through AMSSNuR, has been upgrading its regulatory framework to ensure compliance with Law No.142-12 and consistency with the international safety standards, in particular the IAEA General Safety Requirements (GSR part 3).

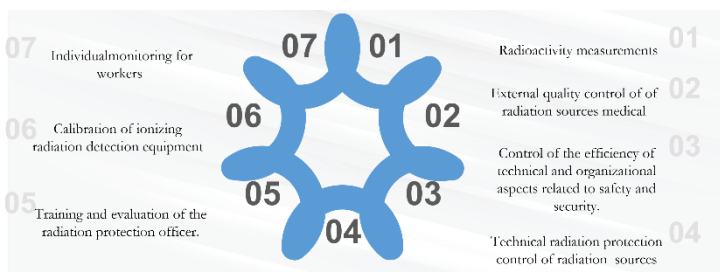
In this regard, AMSSNuR has established the basic framework for occupational exposure to ionizing radiation in planned, existent and emergency exposure situations, which defines among others the requirements for dose limits (including lens equivalent dose limit reduction), monitoring and recording of occupational exposures, responsibilities of employers, registrants, and licensees, radiation protection program, assessment of occupational exposure and workers' health surveillance.

In order to reinforce the radiation protection system and provide technical support to the licensee especially in strengthening occupational radiation protection within his facility, Law No.142-12, assigned to AMSSNuR the responsibility of providing approval for some technical services providers.

The aim of the present work is to introduce AMSSNuR's approach for enhancing occupational radiation protection system at the national level, through the transposition of the GSR part 3 requirements related to technical service providers in the regulation pursuant to the Law No.142-12.

2. Legislative requirements regarding technical service providers

According to the Law No.142-12, approval of technical service providers is granted to applicants that comply with a batch of regulatory requirements regarding the technical and organizational resources, as well as the technical skills and professional qualifications that are necessary for the accomplishment of its missions. An approval is granted for the duration of validity of one year, at most, for a first application and at five years, at most, for a renewal application.



To make sure that approved technical service providers continue to meet the conditions of approval, regulatory control will be conducted by AMSSNuR. In this case approved organizations must facilitate access to their premises for persons responsible for the regulatory control and collaborate with them.

The list of approved technical service providers and the list of approval withdrawals are intended to be published annually in the "Official Bulletin" to facilitate the access to this information for licensees.

5. Conclusions and challenges

AMSSNuR has adopted a participative approach while developing regulations regarding technical service providers' approval and has implemented the basis of an efficient system, however, in order to successfully set up this system, there are several challenges to be faced, mainly related to the training of AMSSNuR's staff in the regulatory functions related to technical service providers (review and assessment, approval, and inspection processes), as well as the absence of experienced assessors in Morocco concerning the attribution of ISO 17025 and ISO 17020 standards for technical service providers subject to law n° 142-12.

However, once deployed, the approval of technical service providers will contribute to the improvement of the safe use of ionizing sources and achieve, by then, the main goal of AMSSNuR which is to protect people and the environment.

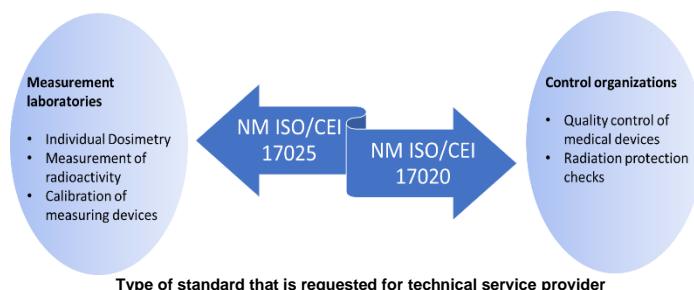
3. Regulatory Requirement regarding technical service providers

The draft decree on approval of technical service providers sets the regulatory provisions relating to the criteria, the terms and conditions of approval, and the system for managing the process of approval of technical service providers.

In order to get AMSSNuR approval, in addition to the technical and organizational resources and professional qualifications necessary for the accomplishment of its mission, each service provider must have a quality management system adapted to the scope of its activity.

As a main document in the application for approval, the applicant must provide an accreditation certificate issued by the national accreditation body or by another accreditation body signatory to the multilateral agreements for recognition of "testing" equivalence of the International Cooperation of ILAC Accreditation Laboratories, or proof justifying that the procedure of accreditation has been started.

Two standards are mainly requested for organisation seeking approval of the Agency:



Also, the applicant must carry out activities under organizational, technical and financial conditions, such as to guarantee their independence of judgment and the rules of ethics. They are bound by the obligation of confidentiality with regard to the results obtained and the operating procedures.

4. AMSSNuR's approach in the establishment of technical service providers approval system

The approval of technical service providers is considered as a first in Morocco, this is why AMSSNuR has undertaken a number of steps that will serve as the framework for the approval process:

- Developing the regulation related to the approval of technical service providers.
- Developing the procedure for the approval of technical service providers' process.
- Developing forms (for each technical service) to be filled by applicants and which contains information about the applicants' organisation and the list of documents that need to be provided to the regulatory body in support of the approval request.
- Developing evaluation plan for each type of technical service in order to support evaluators within AMSSNuR for the evaluation of the application for approval.
- Developing a training program for AMSSNuR staff regarding tasks related to approval of technical services providers.
- Organisation of national workshops with relevant stakeholders in order to inform them about future regulatory requirements regarding technical service providers' approval.