

**International Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection:  
Strengthening Radiation Protection of Workers –Twenty Years of Progress  
and the Way Forward**

Contribution ID: 82

Type: **Poster**

## **Legal and Institutional Frameworks Addressing Occupational Radiation and Protection of Workers in Nuclear Power Plants in Nigeria**

This paper foregrounds that in labour law and labour relations, the main focus of the law and policy drivers is to ensure occupational health and safety. This includes the promotion and maintenance of safe working environment ensuring capacity building and sound employee's health; improvement of working environment; development of work cultures and organizations to support health and safety in work places. Government makes laws that direct companies and employers to provide a safe working environment for their employees. This is intended to identify hazardous materials, conditions and practices at workplaces. Such laws will also assist employers and workers to reduce or eliminate the risks factors of their job. Nigeria over the years have enacted different legislations that provided for occupational safety measures for radiation protection in nuclear power plant industries. This paper examines the different legislation that makes provision for the Occupational Radiation Protection of Workers in Nuclear Power Plants in Nigeria. Though, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 in Section 17(3)(c), specifically provides that, the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that the health, safety and welfare of all persons in employment are safeguarded and not endangered or abused. Major legislation enacted to provide for the safety and health of Nigerian workers generally and in Nuclear Power Plants in particular includes: the Factories Act, CAP F1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN), 2004, Employees Compensation Act, 2010, Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act, 2007, Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission Act enacted 27 August, 1976, (now CAP. N90 LFN 2004), Nigerian Nuclear Safety and Radiation Act, 1995 (now CAP N142, LFN 2004), National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (Establishment) Act, of 31 July, 2007, the Petroleum Industry Act, of 16 August, 2021. Other related laws that seek to give guidance to the implementation of occupational radiation protection of workers in Nigeria are: Nigeria Basic Ionising Radiation Regulations, 2003, Nigerian Radiation Safety in Nuclear Medicine Regulations, 2006 and the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Regulation, 2011. The paper takes into consideration the provisions of the major legislation that established Institutional Frameworks or bodies that implement and give directions for the proper functioning of laws that addresses safety and protection of workers against the effects of radiation in Nuclear Power Plants in Nigeria. For example, the Mines Inspectorate Department created by the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Regulation, 2011, the Board of the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission and the Nigeria Nuclear Regulatory Authority and the Governing Board established by the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act. While the "Authority" acts as the substantive administrative organ of the body, the "Board" acts as the regulatory agency. These institutions assists in giving policy directions and ensure the efficacies of these laws. This paper concludes that Nigeria has enacted laws that provided for institutions with mandates to address issues of Occupational Radiation Protection of Workers in Nuclear Power Plants in accordance with international best practices.

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**Session Classification:** Session 6. Occupational radiation protection in nuclear power plants and nuclear fuel cycle facilities

**Track Classification:** 7. Occupational radiation protection in nuclear power plants and nuclear fuel cycle facilities