

Round Table on the Role of Standards for Strengthening the Security of Radioactive Sources used in Medical Applications

Hospitals, cancer centres, and other medical facilities are necessarily public places. Consequently, it is possible that an individual with malicious intent could gain access to a location where the organisation's radioactive sources are kept, especially if rigorous access controls are lacking. One of the challenges is that devices containing radioactive sources were designed according to criteria related to safety and radiation protection, not to security. It has been shown that a determined adversary with the necessary hand tools could gain access to the sources contained in certain blood irradiator or radiotherapy devices within minutes and remove them from the premises in a portable shielded container with minimal personal exposure to radiation.

Another important consideration is that very few security incidents involving radioactive sources have taken place. As a result, senior management often lack interest in and commitment to radioactive source security. This hampers the development of a robust security culture and leads to minimum implementation of regulatory requirements for the security of radioactive sources. Finally, many medical facilities have too often ignored the need for individuals who are accountable for radioactive source security to have specific skills and competences, in order for them to understand their role and responsibilities for radiological security and be able to successfully contribute to the establishment of an effective security programme for their radioactive sources.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ROUND TABLE

WINS is organising a two-day round table to discuss the current status of security arrangements for high activity radioactive sources used in medical applications, identify possible gaps and explore how innovative approaches to security could help reduce remaining vulnerabilities.



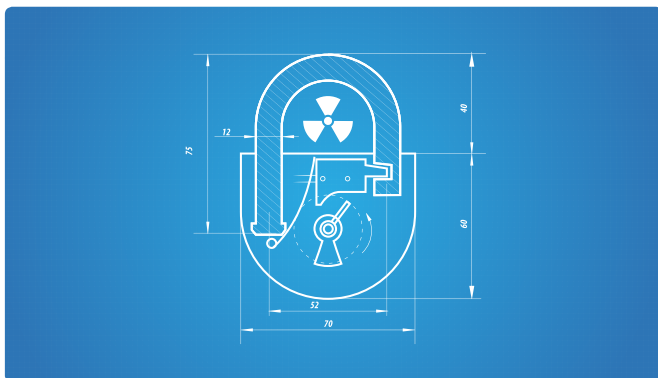
The round table will be designed around three main areas of possible improvement:

- **Strengthening the corporate approach to radioactive source security (governance arrangements)**
Participants will review how peer reviews, quality standards and accreditation mechanisms could be used to 1) facilitate compliance with regulatory requirements, 2) encourage innovation and continuous improvement amongst practitioners, and 3) demonstrate a commitment of medical facilities and their senior management to the highest quality of service and achievements, including radioactive source security.
- **Strengthening the security-by-design of devices and associated facilities**
Participants will review the existing initiatives for strengthening the intrinsic robustness of the devices containing radioactive sources against unauthorised removal. They will also explore options for including security-by-design principles as early as possible for new medical facilities or when significant changes are contemplated in existing practices. Participants will specifically explore the possible role of international standards (e.g. ISO standards) for the development of security certifications for devices containing radioactive sources.

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- **Strengthening the competences of individuals with accountabilities for the security of radioactive sources**
Roundtable participants will discuss the process for identifying the necessary skills and competences for the people involved in the security of radioactive sources used in medical applications. They will also review the currently existing opportunities for professional development in this area. Participants will review, in particular, the role of certification in demonstrating competence.

The round table will also give participants the opportunity to share their perspectives and proposals for innovative initiatives that could help strengthen radioactive source security. It will also enable participants to exchange information on on-going initiatives, develop coordinated approaches, identify duplications and gaps, and agree on a way forward.



TARGETED AUDIENCE

The round table will be open to a group of 15 international experts with demonstrated experience in:

- Radioactive source security,
- Peer review implementation,
- Standards development, and/or accreditation and certification mechanisms.

Delegates may represent end users, industry, regulatory authorities, professional associations, international organisations, and security vendors and consultants.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

If you wish to register or obtain more information on this event please contact:

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MEETING VENUE

The meeting will be held at:

Arcotel Kaiserwasser
Wagramer Str. 8
1220 Vienna
Austria

