

WINS - ISSPA Workshop

SECURITY OF DISUSED RADIOACTIVE SOURCES

INTRODUCTION

Each year, thousands of radioactive sources become disused worldwide. Many are exchanged for new ones to continue operation (e.g. industrial radiography and medical teletherapy). Some other disused sources are covered by agreements to return to their original supplier. However, many users cease operations or have no more use for their sources and are not fully aware of options for the adequate or affordable long-term storage or disposal of disused sources. In several instances, poor management of disused high activity radioactive sources has led to significant incidents, which have caused severe damages, including human casualties.

In addition, many users are unaware of the costs associated with the management of radioactive sources when they become disused. They are unaware that the transportation and disposal costs might be comparable to the purchasing price of the source itself. When confronted with these costly options, some users may opt to not declare their sources as disused and instead store them for extended period of time under substandard circumstances. This poses unnecessary safety and security risks as such sources could become orphan or vulnerable to theft and could potentially be used to create a radiological dispersal device (RDD) or a radiation exposure device (RED).

Finally, the return of a disused source to a supplier or its transfer to a safe and secure interim storage is not always feasible at the time the source becomes disused. In addition to cost, availability of authorised transport packages, lack of documentation and necessary certificates for sources and devices, insufficient interim storage capabilities, complex import/export processes, legislative and regulatory constraints from the countries of origin, and the absence of disposal pathways are examples of remaining challenges to an effective management of disused radioactive sources.

WINS and ISSPA have therefore decided to partner and conduct a 2-day international workshop aiming at reviewing best practices for an effective end of life management for radioactive sources and identifying the security issues and solutions related to the management of disused radioactive sources.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

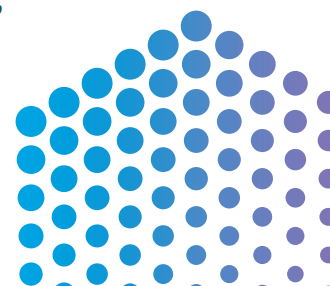
- Organisations that use high activity radioactive sources (medical, academic and industry);
- Source producers and suppliers;
- Transport operators;
- Waste management agencies;
- Regulatory authorities and technical support organisations;
- Law enforcement agencies;
- Security experts, consultants and vendors.



ARCOTEL KAISERWASSER
Vienna, Austria



08-09 October 2019



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OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop will focus on sealed high activity radioactive sources (Cat. 1, 2 and 3) and will provide participants with the opportunity:

- To develop a common terminology and a better understanding of the usual challenges associated with the management of disused sources;
- To review the international recommendations for end of life management of radioactive sources and identify and discuss each step of a comprehensive strategy for an effective management of disused sources;
- To share good practices for the secure management of disused sources and identify and promote synergies between safety and security programmes;
- To discuss specific issues including but not limited to recycling, financial assurances, low cost storage solutions, process for designating a source as a waste, and Long-term storage and disposal opportunities;
- To identify areas where further work is needed and to propose solutions for an effective improvement of security and safety at any step of the management of high activity disused sealed radioactive sources.

The national strategies may be very different from country to country, and the industrial and commercial approaches may be very different from supplier to supplier. For this reason, the workshop will be designed around the main steps that need to be followed for designing and implementing an effective end of life management strategy: these steps may include onsite storage of sources or transport for reuse or recycle, return to manufacturer, repatriation of legacy sources, consolidation at a storage facility, disposal as waste. For each step, participants will identify the key stakeholders and the challenges they may encounter and will explore possible options to overcome those challenges.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Participation will be limited, so please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to attend this event.

If you wish to register or obtain more information on this event please visit WINS website at <https://wins.org/events/> or contact Bettina Lock bettina.lock@wins.org

