

**INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON DENIAL OF SHIPMENTS OF
RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Background

Radioactive materials are used for medical diagnosis and therapy, sterilization of medical products, industrial purposes and for power production. These materials need to be transported from a production site to the place of use. In accordance with the mandate of the International Atomic Energy Agency to promote safe applications of radiation for peaceful purposes, the Agency publishes and periodically updates Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material. The Transport Regulations which serve as the basis for many international and national regulations assure a high degree of safety. Instances of refusal to carry radioactive cargo and of permission to conveyances having aboard such cargo, despite conformance with the regulations, have been reported in the recent years. Such refusals have resulted in hardship to patients and other users of radioactive material.

The Agency's General Conference has been particularly interested in this subject. In GC(48)/RES/10C operative para 12 the 2004 General Conference welcomed "the progress made on the problems related to refusals of shipments of radioactive materials (in particular for medical applications), and looks forward to a satisfactory resolution of this issue."

And in GC(49)/RES/9B operative para 12 the 2005 General Conference welcomed "the progress made in conjunction with the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) on the problems related to refusals of air shipments of radioactive materials (in particular for medical applications) and looks forward to a satisfactory resolution of this issue, and encourages the Secretariat to continue addressing the denial of shipping issue, including by establishing a steering committee to oversee the resolution of the problem, as recommended by TRANSSC."

As a result an International Steering Committee on Denials of Shipments of Radioactive Material is being constituted to further these efforts. This Committee will coordinate international efforts at resolution of issues related to the denial of shipments. This Committee satisfies the recommendation of General Conference resolution GC/49/RES/9B.

Objective

The Committee will serve as a mechanism to facilitate the coordination of a comprehensive international work plan of activities conducted by the organisations of the Committee membership related to delays and denials of shipments of radioactive material.

Membership

Membership of the Committee is drawn from United Nations and other international, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, transport trade organizations and manufacturers of sources of radioactive material.

The membership may include the following organizations:

- IAEA – International Atomic Energy Agency,
- IMO – International Maritime Organization,
- ICAO – International Civil Aviation Organization,
- IATA – International Air Transport Association,
- IFALPA – International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations,
- WTO – World Trade Organization,
- IAPH - International Association Of Ports And Harbours,
- ICHCA - International Cargo Handling Co-Ordination Association,
- ACI - Airports Council International,
- IAEA Member States,

- Transport organization - Edlow International, USA,
- Suppliers of isotopes – ISSP, International Source Suppliers And Producers Association,
- Transporters of industrial ores - Tantalum-Niobium International Study Centre, and
- Nuclear industry - World Nuclear Transport Institute, WNTI.

Working methods

The Committee will select a chairperson from among its members. The Committee will report to the Director General.

Ordinarily, the Committee will meet once a year with each meeting lasting up to three working days. Extraordinary meetings may be called when required. The Chair will prepare an annual report of the progress of the Committee.

The Committee will develop an International, Integrated Plan of Action for addressing and reducing the instances of denials of shipments. There will be a sufficient number of activities in the Plan so that each Committee Member will assume responsibility for one of the activities and pursue the activity to completion.

The Chair of the Committee may establish working groups of experts to deal with specific tasks for the purpose of assisting the Committee in its work.

Specialized international organizations and relevant governmental and non-governmental bodies may be invited by the Director General to attend the Committee meetings as observers.

Data of proprietary nature made available to the Committee will be treated as confidential.

Modern technology for information exchange will be used, particularly in dealing with draft standards and related documents.

Meetings will be conducted in English.

Resources

The Agency's Department of Nuclear Safety and Security will provide the Secretarial services for ensuring the efficient working of the Committee.

Participation of each Committee member or invitee will be cost free to the Agency.