

THE APPLICATION OF THE ALARA PRINCIPLE FOR RADON AT WORK: FEEDBACKS FROM THE EUROPEAN ALARA NETWORK

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Abstract:

National regulations for the protection against radon at the workplace have recently evolved in Europe with the implementation of article 54 from Euratom Directive 2013/59 in national regulations. In general, the scope potentially concerned by the radon regulation has widened; including organizations not previously aware of radiation protection. Furthermore, the practical application of a graded and step-by-step approach including, when necessary, radon measurement, radon remediation, delineation of radon areas and exposure assessment of the personal, can be foreseeably challenging in practice, raising questions from employers, employees and other affected parties.

In this context, the European ALARA Network (EAN) has set up in 2021, a working group to investigate the practical implementation of the ALARA principle in relation to exposure from Radon At the Workplace (the A-RAW working group).

The objective of the working group is to gather a sample of practical experiences in Europe (the objective is 1~2 case studies per country). A questionnaire template has been developed to assist in the collection of an overview of the national regulations and the description of suitable case studies. The questionnaire has been designed to help provide practical details on the controls taken and the measures implemented at the different steps of the regulation. A particular focus is given to the application of the ALARA (optimization) principle.

The questionnaire can be filled in by employers and/or organizations supporting employers in the implementation of the regulation. Following the distribution in June 2021, the first feedbacks are being collected.

The working group aims to present a synthesis of the cases studies, consolidated with an analysis reflecting, notably:

- Commonalities and differences in regulations between countries,
- Feedbacks of the implementation of the regulation, at the different steps, with practical experiences and good practices,
- Difficulties in application, questions that could arise in the future,
- How is the ALARA principle implemented in this exposure situation,
- Actions (ex. guidance, training, sharing of experience etc.) that could be needed and developed in the future at national or European levels.

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