

An Industry Perspective on an efficient safe and secure Life Cycle Management of Radioactive Sources

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Abstract

The International Source Suppliers and Producers Association, ISSPA, is an association made up of members from nine different countries. ISSPA is dedicated to the safe and secure use of radioactive sources during their entire life cycle.

The presentation commences with a brief overview of the life cycle model for sealed sources. The need for a robust safety and security culture is discussed and the challenges associated with the pre use and end of life management of sources are presented.

The challenges associated with the management of sources and controls throughout the whole life cycle are many.

For example, differences exist from state to state in the implementation of regulatory and foreign trade control infrastructure and transport security. Expenditures for safe and secure use and end of life management are often underestimated. There is a need for approved transport packages that can accommodate disused sources and devices. Disposal options are scarce and the costs are unknown. Furthermore, many obstacles to transport exist including denial of shipment and import/export controls. Transportation costs are significant.

Fortunately, sealed source and device manufacturers can provide experience in dealing with these challenges.

The presentation concludes with a discussion of the need for global harmonization and a robust safety and security culture. ISSPA member companies are committed to working with International Organisations and member states to develop policies, improve regulations and repatriate disused sources.