

Introduction to Working Groups

14th EAN Workshop

“ALARA in Existing Exposure Situations”

Dublin, Ireland 4-6 September 2012

Working Group Topics

1. ALARA challenges and practicalities at the national and regional level
2. Considerations in choosing reference levels
3. Economic and technical factors, and endpoints of optimisation
4. Societal factors and stakeholder engagement

WG1: ALARA at the national and regional level

- How can a system of protection be applied to situations that are not normally subject to regulatory control, eg Rn in homes? Who should be responsible for implementing this?
- Who decides when an emergency ES becomes an existing ES? What criteria are used to make this decision?
- When is it appropriate to set national reference levels, and when should regional (or even site-specific) levels be used?
- What can be done when protection is not achieved, eg where doses are not reduced below the agreed reference levels?

WG2: Choosing reference levels

- What are the most important factors to consider when setting RLs?
- Should RLs always be set in terms of annual effective dose? What about potential or probabilistic exposures?
- What would be suitable DRLs?
 - for a legacy NORM site
 - for a post-nuclear emergency scenario
 - for air crew? Etc.
- To encourage ALARA, do we need also need to establish a “target DRL”, ie to indicate when ALARA is achieved?

WG3: Economic and technical factors. Endpoints of optimisation

- How should the “ALARA process” work in practice?
 - a selection from several options based on predicted residual dose?
 - A single or repeated process?
- How practical is this for Rn in homes, or cosmic rays?
- Is there a role for CBA? If so, what is the cost of the man-Sv? And should this be adjusted, eg for different stakeholders such as home owners?
- How do you determine that exposures are ALARA, ie when do you stop? Is this limited by the practicalities of measurement and dose assessment?

WG4: Societal factors and stakeholder engagement

- Existing ES are often public exposure situations – what role do the public have in determining the system of protection?
- How can the use of different dose criteria for different ES be explained, eg to the public and the media?
- If the public have much greater concerns over (say) post-emergency exposures than from natural sources, how much should this be taken into account in the optimisation process?
- What should be done if there is a fundamental disagreement between different stakeholders?

Working Group Timetable

- Tuesday 15:15-17:30
 - Introductions
 - Preliminary discussions
 - Post-session meeting with WG representatives?
- Wednesday 14:45-17:00
 - Final discussions
 - Preparation of recommendations (PowerPoint)
 - Final meeting with WG representatives?
- Thursday
 - 9:30-10:30 WG report back
 - Long coffee break!
 - 11:30-12:30 Conclusions and recommendations

Working Group Notes

- Representatives from each group
 - Chairperson
 - Rapporteur
- Topics
 - Do not limit yourselves!
- Recommendations (**3 - 4 per group**)
 - By end of Day 2 – copy to Peter Shaw
 - PowerPoint (few slides)
 - Recommendation and stakeholder(s)

Working Group Chairpersons

1: J Brown

2: P P Haridasan

3: J F Lecomte

4: T Kenny

Good luck!

- To consider how the ALARA principle can be applied to the whole range of existing exposure situations, including
 - the wider principles and strategies that might be adopted
 - specific methods for implementing ALARA in practice
- To bring together stakeholders
 - to exchange practical ideas and experience
 - to identify further improvements
 - to produce recommendations