

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIATION PROTECTION TRAINING



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The development of training requirements in European legislation



1996: European Directive 96/29/EURATOM

Member States shall require the undertaking to arrange for relevant training in the field of radiation protection to be given to exposed workers, apprentices and students.

Definition of the Qualified Expert (QE)

Member States shall ensure that the training of such specialists is arranged (QEs, Medical practitioners)

Communication 98/C 133/03 – Syllabus for the QE

1997 Medical Exposure Directive 97/43/EURATOM

Definition of the Medical Physics Expert (MPE)

Training

BUT: Inconsistency in approaches to training due to variation in interpretation of roles

Article 7: Training



1. Member States shall ensure that practitioners and relevant individuals have adequate theoretical and practical training for the purpose of radiological practices, as well as relevant competence in radiation protection.
2. Member States shall ensure that appropriate curricula are established and shall recognize the corresponding diplomas, certificates or formal qualifications.
3. Member States shall ensure that continuing education and training after qualification is provided and, in the special case of the clinical use of new techniques, the organization of training related to these techniques and the relevant radiation protection requirements.
4. Member States shall encourage the introduction of a course on radiation protection in the basic curriculum of medical and dental schools.

Medical Physics Expert: an expert in radiation physics or radiation technology applied to exposure, within the scope of this Directive, whose training and competence to act is recognized by the competent authorities; and who, as appropriate, acts or gives advice on patient dosimetry, on the development and use of complex techniques and equipment, on optimization, on quality assurance, including quality control, and on other matters relating to radiation protection, concerning exposure within the scope of this Directive.

EC concerns over lack of mutual recognition for Qualified Expert 2005: Conclusions of initial survey into situation



- Significant differences in the interpretation of the roles of the QE across Member States
- Difficult to conclude a de-minimus level of training for QE – further investigation required.
- Majority of states have mechanisms in place for recognition of QE: significant differences
- Only a minority of countries have systems for mutual recognition: no consensus on what could constitute minimal requirements

EUTERP (European Training & Education in Radiation Protection)



2006 EC issues a contract to NRG to develop a European training platform.

Objectives of platform:

- To remove obstacles for the mobility of QEs in the EU through harmonisation of criteria and qualifications and mutual recognition
- To facilitate the trans-national access to vocational education and training
- To better integrate education and training into occupational radiation protection infrastructures in the member, Candidate and Associated States of the EU.

1st & 2nd EUTERP Platform Workshops

Qualifications and requirements for recognition of radiation protection experts, radiation protection officers and radiation workers



Vilnius, Lithuania, May 2007, April 2008

Objectives:

1. Analyse the differences in interpretation of the BSS definition of the QE in national legislation
2. Define common minimum requirements for competencies and training of RPEs, RPOs, and workers, taking into account job profiles, sector of work etc.
3. Provide guidance on the implementation of the requirements into national regulations

Paper submitted to Article 31 Group in November 2008:

“Recommendations to Article 31 Group on the definitions and roles of the Radiation Protection Expert and the Radiation Protection Officer”

Recommendation 1: Radiation Protection Expert



Definition

Persons having the knowledge, training and experience needed to give radiation protection advice in order to ensure effective protection of individuals, whose capacity to act as a radiation protection expert is recognised by the individual authorities.

Advice on:

- Plans for new facilities and acceptance testing
- Classification of controlled and supervised areas
- Classification of workers
- Area and personal monitoring programmes
- Appropriate radiation monitoring instrumentation
- Appropriate methods of personal dosimetry
- Arrangements to restrict exposure
- Radioactive waste disposal requirements

Recommendation 2: Radiation Protection Officer



Definition

An individual technically competent in radiation protection matters relevant for a given type of practice who is designated by the registrant or licensee to oversee the application of the requirements of the Standards.

The local management of radiation protection arrangements at a practice and the supervision of the work.

The RPO will oversee the application of the relevant legislative requirements for the specific sources of radiation in the practice, and ensure that the work is carried out safely.

Recommendation 5: Role of the Medical Physics Expert



It is recommended that the functions of the RPE and MPE continue to be separately identified and defined in the revised BSS, and that the current definition for the MPE be retained.

3rd EUTERP Platform Workshop:
EUTERP – the Future
16 – 18 April – Antalya



Implementation of EUTERP recommendations on the RPE and RPO and the possible consequences.

Future work programme:

- routes towards mutual recognition
- harmonisation of training
- recognition of training courses and providers

Future management of the Platform:

- mechanism for sustainability
- development of the EUTERP website
- national expectations for the Platform



New 3 year EC project
ENETRAP II, started April 2009



Coordinator
SCK•CEN

Partners
CEA-INSTN
FZK-FTU
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NRG
ENEA
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ENEN Association
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- ❑ To develop European appropriate reference syllabuses and good practices for E&T in radiation protection, specifically with respect to the RPE and the RPO.
- ❑ These syllabuses will reflect the needs of the RPE and the RPO in all sectors where ionising radiation is applied (nuclear industry, medical sector, research, non-nuclear industry).
- ❑ Development of a European passport for CPD in RP



A centralised European source of information on radiation protection education & training matters

- focal point for co-ordination
- Mechanism for dissemination of information
- Website www.euterp.eu
- Newsletter
- Workshops



Radiation Protection Training in Europe – the next steps

28-30 March 2011

Atlantica Aeneas Resort & Spa, Ayia Napa, Cyprus





Radiation protection training in Europe – the next steps Being held in association with EFOMP

Will include:

- **RP training in the medical sector**
- **European reference syllabuses**
- **RPE certification**
- **Mutual recognition**

Working towards:

- Harmonisation of training activities
- Common understanding of roles
- Dissemination of training information

