

DISSEMINATION POLICY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF SEALED RADIOACTIVE SOURCES AND DEVICES

1. Introduction

1.1. The statutory functions of the IAEA include, according to Article III.A.3, “fostering the exchange of scientific and technical information on peaceful use of atomic energy”, which has been re-emphasized in Article VIII (Exchange of information). In carrying out these activities, however, the Director General and staff members of the IAEA are prohibited, in Article VII.F, from “disclosing any industrial secret or other confidential information coming to their knowledge by reason of their official duties for the Agency”.

1.2. The International Catalogue of Sealed Radioactive Sources and Devices (in short Source Catalogue) has been developed since 1999 within the Waste Technology Section (WTS) as part of the Agency’s *Action Plan for the Safety of Radiation Sources and Security of Radioactive Material* (GOV/1999/46-GC(43)/10), which includes an activity “to develop a repository of information on the characteristics of sources and of devices containing sources, including transport containers, and to disseminate the information, with consideration of the advisability of dissemination through the Internet”. Both the *Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources* (IAEA/CODEOC/2004) and the *IAEA Nuclear Security Plan of Activities* (GOV/2002/10), which was adopted after “9/11”, support this activity.

1.3. This Source Catalogue, which contains information on worldwide existing models of sealed radioactive sources and devices housing the sources, as well as the manufacturers and distributors of these sources and devices, is in the form of a computer database. It constitutes a useful tool to be disseminated to Member States, in accordance with the above mentioned statutory obligation of the Agency, and maintains the necessary level of information security as defined in the Agency’s Information Security Policy (Annex I to SEC/NOT/1932).

2. Objectives

2.1. The main objectives of the dissemination policy are to define the framework within which the Source Catalogue is to be disseminated to Member States; to identify the different users of the Source Catalogue; to define the responsibilities of various stakeholders concerned with the Source Catalogue; and to provide guidelines on different issues related to its dissemination.

3. Intended purposes and uses of the Source Catalogue

3.1. The Source Catalogue is considered as a useful tool in implementing the Agency’s comprehensive approach to nuclear safety and security covering all the activities that contribute to providing appropriate control of radioactive sources from causing radiological accidents as well as prevention, detection of, and response to malicious acts with radioactive sources.

3.2. The main intended objectives of the Source Catalogue are:

- Identification of sealed radioactive sources (orphaned or otherwise);
- Identification of unknown equipments, devices, apparatus, etc. housing sealed radioactive sources; and
- Identification of transport containers used for the transportation of sealed sources.

3.3. The following are some examples of activities that may require the use of the Source Catalogue:

- Recovery and conditioning operations;
- Decommissioning and decontamination operations;
- Detection of incidents of illicit trafficking;
- Education and training;
- Emergency response team activities;
- Users of sealed radioactive sources and equipments with sealed sources; and
- Sealed source management activities

4. Information dissemination

4.1. The Source Catalogue will be disseminated through a password-protected electronic version available on the internet, through secure encrypted lines. This version will be available to officially designated national and international coordinators. If users cannot find the information they need, they can contact the IAEA. In addition, the Agency will prepare a booklet, which will be publicly available to all IAEA Member States, and will contain relevant information that can be used by other stakeholders, such as customs officers, scrap dealers, and security personnel.

5. Intended user groups of the Source Catalogue

5.1. The Source Catalogue will be distributed through pre-established authorized contact points (national and international coordinators) to the groups with interest in the catalogue. These groups while not exhaustive are:

- International organizations like World Custom Organization (WCO), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), European Police Office (EUROPOL), European Commission (EC), World Health Organization (WHO), etc.
- International Governmental organizations, e.g. regulatory authorities, waste management organizations, emergency response teams.
- Other organizations within the Member States, e.g. customs authorities, scrap dealers and foundries.
- Any other organizations dealing with Sealed Radioactive Sources.

6. Dissemination to beneficiaries

6.1. The Waste Technology Section (WTS) of the Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology at the Department of Nuclear Energy, acting as a single clearing-house, will have the sole responsibility for disseminating the Source Catalogue.

6.2. Other international organizations may also be given access to the Source Catalogue through their authorized contact points, alternatively, the service will be provided on case-by-case basis for their own routine use only. Any further dissemination will be carried out by the IAEA through WTS.

6.3. Interested Member States will be given access to the full Source Catalogue through their designated contact point(s) or national coordinators for their own use and for answering specific

inquiries within the country. They will be responsible for further access of other organizations within the country.

6.4. In addition to being responsible for dissemination, WTS will also be responsible for the further development, maintenance, update and QA/QC of the Source Catalogue. In this respect, WTS will cooperate with the EC and coordinate all necessary activities with the relevant sections of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security.

7. Guidelines for dissemination

7.1. In order to receive access to the Source Catalogue, Member States and international organizations need to send formal request from the appropriate authority to the Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology of the IAEA. The request letter should mention the country's/organization's commitment to fulfil the responsibilities of the designated contact point as described in this document and the nomination of a single contact person, who will become the national coordinator and act as the counterpart with whom the IAEA would further communicate. In specific cases, more than one contact point can be requested, if justified by the requesting country's nuclear infrastructure.

7.2. The Contact Point would sign a confidentiality agreement and agree to use the Source Catalogue for the intended purpose only, following the guidelines of this document. International organizations will follow a similar procedure.

7.3. The basis for access to the full version of the Source Catalogue will be:

- Need-to-know information on daily basis
- Emergency requirements
- High-risk nature of work dealing with SRS

7.4. As mentioned above, the IAEA will publish a hardcopy booklet and a poster, which will be publicly available to all IAEA Member States. The intention is to raise awareness for the presence of sealed sources, to facilitate the identification of sealed sources (orphaned or otherwise) and to give instruction on how to obtain further help.

8. Policy review

8.1. This Dissemination Policy will be reviewed as needed in the light of future developments.