ITDB | Incident and Trafficking Database

Why is this important?

Incidents reported to the IAEA demonstrate that illicit trafficking, thefts, losses and other unauthorized activities and events involving nuclear and other radioactive material continue to occur.

Established in 1995, the Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB) is the IAEA’s information system on incidents of illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities and events involving nuclear and other radioactive material outside of regulatory control.

Since 1993, the ITDB contains over 2890 confirmed incidents reported by participating States. Over 15% of these confirmed incidents involved unauthorized possession and related criminal activities, over 25% involved reported theft or loss and over 54% involved other unauthorized activities and events. In the remaining cases, the reported information was not sufficient to determine the category of incident.

What do I need to know?

The ITDB is a unique asset helping participating States and selected international organizations to combat illicit nuclear trafficking and strengthen nuclear security. It is also an essential component of the information platform supporting the IAEA’s Nuclear Security Plan 2014–2017.

The scope of ITDB information is broad. It includes, but is not limited to, incidents involving illegal trade and movement of nuclear or other radioactive material across national borders. The scope also covers incidents involving unauthorized acquisition (e.g. through theft), supply, possession, use, transfer or disposal — intentional or unintentional — of nuclear and other radioactive material with or without crossing international borders.

The scope also covers unsuccessful or thwarted incidents of the acts detailed above, as well as the loss of material and the discovery of uncontrolled material. States are also encouraged to report incidents involving the intentional offering for sale of benign material that is purported to be nuclear or otherwise radioactive.

What is the IAEA’s Role?

The ITDB receives information on incidents ranging from illegal possession, attempted sale and smuggling to unauthorized disposal of material and discovery of lost radioactive sources. The IAEA’s ITDB team maintains and analyses a growing collection of authoritative information, reported by participating States, on incidents involving illicit trafficking and other related unauthorized activities involving nuclear and other radioactive materials. This information is disseminated through the IAEA to participating States and certain international organizations. In order to protect the confidentiality of information reported by Member States, the ITDB implements strict sensitive information handling and dissemination procedures.
What actions are recommended?

Member States interested in joining the ITDB can contact NuclearSecurity@iaea.org.

Member States should consult with the IAEA to develop an Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) for building a sustainable nuclear security framework.

Member States interested in learning more about the national and regional ITDB meetings can contact NuclearSecurity@iaea.org.

For a list of IAEA security training courses and workshops, check the current online IAEA Meeting Schedule.

Other important information

Sharing information is key

Information reported to the ITDB demonstrates that:

- the availability of unsecured nuclear and other radioactive material persists;
- effective border control measures help to detect illicit trafficking, although effective control is not uniformly implemented at all international border points;
- individuals and groups are prepared to engage in trafficking this material.

Regional and national meetings

The IAEA also conducts regional and national information meetings to improve dialogue on illicit trafficking and related nuclear security issues. These meetings also help raise awareness of the ITDB programme and highlight the support the IAEA can offer to Member States in improving all elements of nuclear security.

Resources

IAEA Meeting Schedule [http://www-pub.iaea.org/mtcd/meetings/PDFplus/current.pdf]

The Nuclear Security Information Portal (NUSEC) is accessible to all IAEA Member States. Go to [https://nusec.iaea.org] to register.

IAEA Learning Management System portal. elearning.iaea.org/m2/

Email: NuclearSecurity@iaea.org