

60 Years

Atoms for Peace and Development

# Nuclear Security

CAPACITY BUILDING

## CPPNM | Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment

### Why is this important?

Physical protection against the theft, sabotage or unauthorized use of nuclear material has become a matter of strong national and international concern and commitment given the current global situation. Physical protection also plays an important role in supporting global counter-terrorism objectives.

In simple terms, the physical protection of nuclear material can be described as a set of legal, administrative and technical measures, including physical barriers, to 'physically protect' nuclear material.

The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment is one part of an overall set of rules, whose objective is to have a strong physical protection regime, one in which security is everywhere and at an acceptable level. It includes basic guidelines for the establishment of national physical protection systems which were developed by the IAEA.

While the responsibility for establishing and operating an effective physical protection regime for nuclear material and facilities is the sole responsibility of the Member State, the CPPNM and its Amendment includes provisions for expanded cooperation between and among States to strengthen physical protection of nuclear material including rapid measures to locate and recover stolen or smuggled nuclear material.

### What do I need to know?

The CPPNM, the only legally binding international undertaking in the area of physical protection of nuclear material, was adopted in 1979 and entered into force in 1987. It focuses on the physical protection of nuclear material used for peaceful purposes during international transport, but does not cover the protection of nuclear facilities or nuclear material in domestic use, storage and transport. In July 2005, the Parties to the CPPNM adopted the Amendment to broaden the scope of the original Convention in this regard.

The Amendment entered into force on 8 May 2016 following the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval thereof by two thirds of the States Parties.

### What are the new obligations for States under the Amendment?

The Amendment broadens the scope of the CPPNM to also include physical protection requirements for nuclear facilities and nuclear material in domestic use, storage and transport. It expands the scope of existing offences identified in the CPPNM (e.g. theft of nuclear material), and also introduces new ones, including the smuggling of nuclear material and the actual or threatened sabotage of nuclear facilities. States are required to minimize any radiological consequences of sabotage, and prevent and combat related offences.

In the case of stolen nuclear material or threat thereof, States are required to exchange information with each other, the IAEA and other relevant international organizations with a view to recovering and protecting such material.

## What actions are recommended?



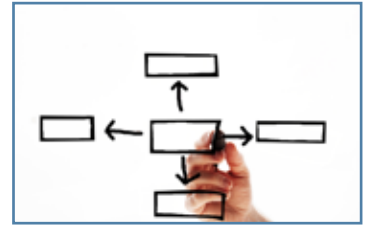
Member States desiring capacity building services should send a request to the IAEA Division of Nuclear Security.



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 should consult with the IAEA to assist in determining which capacity building services are available and recommended.



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

### Who should request services?

This programme is intended for government and regulatory organizations with an interest in meeting their nuclear security obligations and commitments as outlined in the CPPNM and its Amendment, as well as those interested in improving their physical protection and overall security regimes.

### What services are provided?

The IAEA provides legislative and technical assistance upon request.

#### IAEA SERVICES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CPPNM AND ITS AMENDMENT

- Assistance in the drafting of national implementing legislation (e.g. through national and regional training courses and workshops; bilateral assistance in drafting national laws);
- Assistance in establishing, implementing, and maintaining a State's physical protection regime (training courses and workshops aimed at human resource development and capacity building; peer reviews and advisory services, e.g. International Physical Protection Advisory Service, International Nuclear Security Advisory Service);
- Developing and implementing INSSPs.

## Resources

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

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment:

<https://www.iaea.org/publications/documents/conventions/convention-physical-protection-nuclear-material>  
<https://ola.iaea.org/ola/documents/ACPPNM/Unofficial-consolidated-text-English.pdf>

IAEA Learning Management System portal. [elearning.iaea.org/m2/](http://elearning.iaea.org/m2/)

**Email:** [NuclearSecurity@iaea.org](mailto:NuclearSecurity@iaea.org)

**Visit:** the IAEA Nuclear Security Information Portal (NUSEC) at <https://nusec.iaea.org>

