



IAEA International Conference on Radiation Safety:
Improving Radiation Protection in Practice (*Virtual Event*)
9-20 November 2020

Side event: IRPA – The Concept of Reasonableness in Radiation Protection

DATE: 18 November 2020, Wednesday (11:30-13:00 CET)

LOCATION: Virtual

BACKGROUND:

It is widely recognised that the judgement of ‘reasonableness’ as part of the optimisation of protection is perhaps the dominant factor in determining the level of radiation exposure in many situations, and is central to our RP philosophy. Whilst recognising this, there are concerns amongst many practitioners that the interpretation of what is ‘reasonable’ in applying the ALARA concept has become too cautious, with a tendency towards an expectation of ‘ever lower doses’ and minimisation of exposure rather than judging what is ‘reasonable’. In other words, there is a perception of much greater emphasis on ‘As Low As’ rather than ‘Reasonable’. These issues have been explored in IRPA-sponsored workshops (eg Paris 2017, 2018) and by several other international organisations.

With this in mind IRPA is conducting a consultation on a short set of ‘Guiding Principles for Reasonableness in the Optimisation of Protection’. This aims to provide guidance on the key underpinning factors which should be taken into account when considering optimisation of protection. A first draft of the guidance was made available for comment within the IRPA community (the Associate Societies), and a revised second draft taking account of comment received will be made available to a wider RP community in order to seek the widest possible consensus.

This latest draft guidance, which will be available in advance of the event, will form the basis of the presentations and discussion at the Side Event. Key aspects of the proposed guidance will be discussed, and all delegates will be invited to respond with detailed comments during the discussion and also by email after the event.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

The concept of reasonableness is a fundamental component of protection across all fields of practice, and as such all radiation protection practitioners and professionals are invited to participate in these discussions.

EXPECTED OUTCOME:

In preparing the IRPA guiding principles we are seeking the widest possible input from colleagues across all fields and branches of radiation protection. IRPA will review the advice and comments received during the Side Event, together with additional views from the IRPA Associate Societies and a range of international organisations. All these inputs will inform the final published ‘IRPA Guiding Principles on Reasonableness in the Optimisation of Protection’.



HOW TO ATTEND:

- The side event will be accessible through the [IAEA Conferences and Meetings App](#). Interested participants need to register by filling in the [Participation form A](#) and sending it to Official.Mail@iaea.org. Registered participants will be able to view the discussion and submit questions during the live event or beforehand.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Chair: Eduardo Gallego IRPA Vice President

Key Presenter: The IRPA Draft Guidance Roger Coates IRPA President

Short presentations of initial reflections on the draft guidance:

Karla Petrova	HERCA
Thierry Schneider	CEPN, ICRP TG114
Marcel Lips	WNA
Maria Perez	WHO
Miroslav Pinak	IAEA
Ruth McBurney	CRCPD

Panel discussion, including delegate questions/comments

If you have any questions, please contact: Roger Coates [coates@irpa.net]

