

Information Circular

INFCIRC/549/Add.3/23

Date: 23 May 2024

General Distribution
Original: English, French

Communication Received from Belgium Concerning its Policies Regarding the Management of Plutonium

1. The Secretariat has received a note verbale dated 3 May 2024 from the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the IAEA in the enclosures of which the Government of Belgium, in keeping with its commitment under the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (contained in INFCIRC/549¹ of 16 March 1998 and hereinafter referred to as the “Guidelines”), and in accordance with Annexes B and C of the Guidelines, has made available annual figures for its holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and the estimated amounts of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel as of 31 December 2023.

2. In light of the request expressed by the Government of Belgium in its note verbale of 1 December 1997 concerning its policies regarding the management of plutonium (INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998), the note verbale of 3 May 2024 and the enclosures therewith are attached for the information of all Member States.

¹ A modification to this document was issued on 17 August 2009 (INFCIRC/549/Mod.1).

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Translated from French

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The Permanent Mission of Belgium to the International Atomic Energy Agency presents its compliments to the IAEA Director General and has the honour to refer to Belgium's annual commitment pursuant to the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (INFCIRC/549).

In accordance with this commitment, the Permanent Mission attaches hereto information on plutonium holdings on Belgian territory as of 31 December 2023:

- Annex B of the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium covering holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium in Belgium;
- Annex C of the Guidelines, relating to estimated amounts of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel.

The Permanent Mission of Belgium to the International Atomic Energy Agency avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the IAEA Director General the assurances of its highest consideration.

[stamp]

Vienna, 3 May 2024

ANNEX B**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF PLUTONIUM****ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS OF
CIVIL UNIRRADIATED PLUTONIUM**National totals

BELGIUM	(Previous year's figures in Brackets)	
	Rounded to 100 kg plutonium	
	As of 31 Dec. 2023	As of 31 Dec. 2022
1. Unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants.	0 kg	[0 kg]
2. Unirradiated separated plutonium in the course of manufacture or fabrication and plutonium contained in unirradiated semi-fabricated or unfinished products at fuel or other fabricating plants or elsewhere.	p.m.	[p.m.]
3. Plutonium contained in unirradiated MOX fuel or other fabricated products at reactor sites or elsewhere.	p.m.	[p.m.]
4. Unirradiated separated plutonium held elsewhere.	p.m.	[p.m.]

ANNEX B

BELGIUM	(Previous year's figures in Brackets)	
	Rounded to 100 kg <u>plutonium</u>	
Note :	As of 31 Dec. 2023	As of 31 Dec. 2022
(i) Plutonium included in lines 1-4 above <u>belonging to foreign bodies.</u>	0 kg	[0 kg]
(ii) Plutonium in any of the forms in lines 1-4 above held in locations in other countries and therefore not included above.	0 kg	[0 kg]
(iii) Plutonium in international shipment for which the Government of Belgium still retains Safeguards responsibility is included in the <u>appropriate lines above. The Government with jurisdiction over the owner of the plutonium is responsible for resolving any residual difficulties.</u>	0 kg	[0 kg]
(iv) <u>It is open to Governments to add any further information or explanation which they believe helpful</u>	p.m. does not necessarily mean zero; it means less than 50 kg	(p.m.) does not necessarily mean zero; it means less than 50 kg

ANNEX C

Estimated Amounts of Plutonium Contained in Spent civil Reactor Fuel

National totals

BELGIUM	(Previous year's figures in Brackets)	
	Rounded to 1000 kg <u>plutonium</u>	
	As of 31 Dec. 2023	As of 31 Dec. 2022
1) Plutonium contained in spent fuel at civil reactor <u>sites</u>	50.000 kg	[48.000 kg]
2) Plutonium contained in spent fuel at reprocessing plants	0 kg	[0 kg]
3) Plutonium contained in spent fuel held elsewhere	p.m.	[p.m.]
	p.m. does not necessarily mean zero; it means less than 500 kg	p.m. does not necessarily mean zero; it means less than 500 kg

Note:

- i) The treatment of material sent for direct disposal will need further consideration when specific plans for direct disposal have taken concrete form.
- ii) Definitions:
 - Line 1: covers plutonium contained in fuel discharged from civil reactors.
 - Line 2: covers estimated amounts of plutonium contained in fuel received at reprocessing plants but not yet reprocessed.