

Health Protection (Ionising Radiation)

1995-09

RESPONSIBLE AND SAFE MANAGEMENT OF SPENT FUEL AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE REGULATIONS 2013

**Subsidiary
2013/112**

This version is out of date

Subsidiary Legislation made under s. 2 the Health Protection (Ionising Radiation) Act 1995 and by section 23(g)(i) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act.

RESPONSIBLE AND SAFE MANAGEMENT OF SPENT FUEL AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE REGULATIONS 2013

(LN. 2013/112)

Commencement **23.8.2013**

Transposing:

Directive 2011/70/Euratom

EU Legislation/International Agreements involved:

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS.

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In exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 2 the Health Protection (Ionising Radiation) Act 1995 and by section 23(g)(i) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act and for the purpose of transposing into the law of Gibraltar Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom of 19 July 2011 establishing a Community Framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, the Government has made the following Regulations—

Title and commencement.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Responsible and Safe Management of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Regulations 2013 and come into operation on 23 August 2013.

Interpretation.

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“closure” means the completion of all operations at some time after the emplacement of spent fuel or radioactive waste in a disposal facility, including the final engineering or other work required to bring the facility to a condition that will be safe in the long term;

“competent regulatory authority” means a body designated under regulation 6 to be an authority in the field of regulation of the safety of spent fuel or radioactive waste management;

“Directive” means Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom of 19 July 2011 establishing a Community Framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, as the same may be amended from time to time;

“disposal” means the emplacement of spent fuel or radioactive waste in a facility without the intention of retrieval;

“disposal facility” means any facility or installation the primary purpose of which is radioactive waste disposal;

“Joint Convention” means the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management;

“licence” means a licence granted by the competent regulatory authority to carry out any activity related to the management of spent fuel or radioactive waste, or to confer responsibility for siting, design,

construction, commissioning, operation, decommissioning or closure of a spent fuel management facility or of a radioactive waste management facility;

“licence holder” means any person having overall responsibility for any activity or facility related to the management of spent fuel or radioactive waste as specified in a licence;

“Nuclear Waste Management Framework” the legislative, regulatory and organisational framework established under regulation 5;

“radioactive waste” means radioactive material in gaseous, liquid or solid form for which no further use is foreseen or considered by the Government, or by a person whose decision is accepted by the Government and which is regulated as radioactive waste by a competent regulatory authority under the Nuclear Waste Management Framework;

“radioactive waste management” means all activities that relate to handling, pretreatment, treatment, conditioning, storage, or disposal of radioactive waste, excluding off-site transportation;

“radioactive waste management facility” means any facility or installation the primary purpose of which is radioactive waste management;

“reprocessing” means a process or operation, the purpose of which is to extract fissile and fertile materials from spent fuel for further use;

“spent fuel” means nuclear fuel that has been irradiated in and permanently removed from a reactor core; spent fuel may either be considered as a usable resource that can be reprocessed or be destined for disposal if regarded as radioactive waste;

“spent fuel management” means all activities that relate to the handling, storage, reprocessing, or disposal of spent fuel, excluding off-site transportation;

“spent fuel management facility” means any facility or installation the primary purpose of which is spent fuel management;

“storage” means the holding of spent fuel or of radioactive waste in a facility with the intention of retrieval.

Subject-matter and application of these Regulations.

3.(1) These Regulations seek to—

- (a) contribute to the establishment of a European Union framework for ensuring responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste to avoid imposing undue burdens on future generations;
- (b) ensure the provision of appropriate arrangements in Gibraltar for a high level of safety in spent fuel and radioactive waste management to protect workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionising radiation; and
- (c) ensure the provision of necessary public information and participation in relation to spent fuel and radioactive waste management while having due regard to security and proprietary information issues.

(2) These Regulations shall apply to all stages of—

- (a) spent fuel management when the spent fuel results from civilian activities; and
- (b) radioactive waste management, from generation to disposal, when the radioactive waste results from civilian activities.

(3) These Regulations shall not apply to—

- (a) waste from extractive industries which—
 - (i) may be radioactive, and
 - (ii) falls within the scope of the Waste (Extractive Industries) Regulations 2009; and
- (b) authorised releases.

(4) Regulation 4(4) and (5) shall not apply to—

- (a) repatriation of disused sealed sources to a supplier or manufacturer; and
- (b) shipment of spent fuel of research reactors to a country where research reactor fuels are supplied or manufactured, taking into account applicable international agreements.

(5) These Regulations shall not affect the right of the Government or an undertaking in Gibraltar to return radioactive waste after processing to its country of origin where—

- (a) the radioactive waste is to be shipped to Gibraltar or undertaking for processing; or
- (b) other material is to be shipped to Gibraltar or undertaking with the purpose of recovering the radioactive waste.

(6) These Regulations shall not affect the right of the Government or an undertaking in Gibraltar if spent fuel is to be shipped for treatment or reprocessing to return to its country of origin radioactive waste recovered from the treatment or reprocessing operation, or an agreed equivalent.

(7) These Regulations shall apply without prejudice to the Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004 and supplement the basic standards referred to in Article 30 of the Euratom Treaty as regards the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

General principles.

4.(1) Without prejudice to regulation 3(4), the Government shall have ultimate responsibility for management of the spent fuel and radioactive waste generated in Gibraltar.

(2) Where radioactive waste or spent fuel is shipped for processing or reprocessing from Gibraltar to a Member State or a third country, the ultimate responsibility for the safe and responsible disposal of those materials, including any waste as a by-product, shall remain with the Government, and where it shipped to Gibraltar from a third country, that country shall bear that responsibility.

(3) The Government shall establish and maintain policies for Gibraltar on spent fuel and radioactive waste management on the basis of the following principles—

- (a) the generation of radioactive waste shall be kept to the minimum which is reasonably practicable, both in terms of activity and volume, by means of appropriate design measures and of operating and decommissioning practices, including the recycling and reuse of materials;

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- (b) the interdependencies between all steps in spent fuel and radioactive waste generation and management shall be taken into account;
- (c) spent fuel and radioactive waste shall be safely managed, including in the long term with passive safety features;
- (d) implementation of measures shall follow a graded approach;
- (e) the costs for the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste shall be borne by those who generated those materials; and
- (f) an evidence-based and documented decision-making process shall be applied with regard to all stages of the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

(4) Where the Radioactive waste was generated in Gibraltar, it shall be disposed of in Gibraltar unless at the time of shipment an agreement, taking into account the criteria established by the Commission in accordance with Article 16(2) of Directive 2006/117/Euratom, has entered into force between Gibraltar and a Member State or a third country to use a disposal facility in one of them.

(5) Prior to a shipment to a third country under this regulation the Government shall ensure that the Commission is informed of the content of any such agreement and take reasonable measures to be assured that—

- (a) the country of destination has concluded an agreement with the European Union covering spent fuel and radioactive waste management or is a party to the Joint Convention;
- (b) the country of destination has radioactive waste management and disposal programmes with objectives representing a high level of safety equivalent to those established by these Regulations; and
- (c) the disposal facility in the country of destination is authorised for the radioactive waste to be shipped, is operating prior to the shipment, and is managed in accordance with the requirements set down in the radioactive waste management and disposal programme of that country of destination.

Nuclear Waste Management Framework.

5.(1) The Government shall establish and maintain a Nuclear Waste Management Framework for spent fuel and radioactive waste management that allocates responsibility and provides for coordination between relevant competent bodies which shall provide for all of the following—

- (a) a programme for the implementation of spent fuel and radioactive waste management policy;
- (b) arrangements for the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management;
- (c) a system of licensing of spent fuel and radioactive waste management activities, facilities or both, including the prohibition of spent fuel or radioactive waste management activities, of the operation of a spent fuel or radioactive waste management facility without a licence or both and, if appropriate, prescribing conditions for further management of the activity, facility or both;
- (d) a system of appropriate control, a management system, regulatory inspections, documentation and reporting obligations for radioactive waste and spent fuel management activities, facilities or both, including appropriate measures for the post-closure periods of disposal facilities;
- (e) enforcement actions, including the suspension of activities and the modification, expiration or revocation of a licence together with requirements, if appropriate, for alternative solutions that lead to improved safety;
- (f) the allocation of responsibility to the bodies involved in the different steps of spent fuel and radioactive waste management;
- (g) requirements for public information and participation;
- (h) the financing scheme for spent fuel and radioactive waste management in accordance with regulation 10.

(2) The Nuclear Waste Management Framework shall, with respect to subregulation (1)(f), in particular, give primary responsibility for the spent fuel and radioactive waste to their generators or, under specific circumstances, to a licence holder to whom this responsibility has been entrusted by competent regulatory authority.

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(3) The Government shall ensure that the Nuclear Waste Management Framework is improved where appropriate, taking into account operating experience, insights gained from the decision-making process referred to in regulation 4(3)(f), and the development of relevant technology and research.

Competent regulatory authority.

6.(1) The Government shall establish and maintain a competent regulatory authority in the field of safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management.

(2) For the purposes of subregulation (1), the Government shall designate by notice in the Gazette a body to be the competent regulatory authority, which must be functionally separate from any other body or organisation concerned with the promotion or utilisation of nuclear energy or radioactive material, including electricity production and radioisotope applications, or with the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, in order to ensure effective independence from undue influence on its regulatory function.

(3) The Government shall ensure that the competent regulatory authority designated under this regulation is given the range of powers and human and financial resources necessary to fulfil its obligations in connection with the Nuclear Waste Management Framework as described in regulation 5(1)(b), (c), (d) and (e).

Licence holders responsibility.

7. Where the competent regulatory authority issues a licence, that licence shall provide that—

- (a) the prime responsibility for the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management facilities or activities or both rest with the licence holder; and
- (b) responsibility cannot be delegated.

Additional requirements.

8.(1) The Government shall ensure that the Nuclear Waste Management Framework requires licence holders to—

- (a) regularly assess, verify and continuously improve, as far as is reasonably achievable, the safety of the radioactive waste and spent fuel management facility or activity in a systematic and

verifiable manner which must be achieved through an appropriate safety assessment, other arguments and evidence;

- (b) establish and implement integrated management systems, including quality assurance, which give due priority for overall management of spent fuel and radioactive waste to safety and are regularly verified by the competent regulatory authority; and
- (c) provide for and maintain adequate financial and human resources to fulfil their obligations with respect to the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management as laid down in regulation 7 and in this regulation.

(2) As part of the licensing of a facility or activity the safety demonstration shall cover the development and operation of an activity and the development, operation and decommissioning of a facility or closure of a disposal facility as well as the post-closure phase of a disposal facility.

(3) The extent of the safety demonstration under subregulation (2) shall be commensurate with the complexity of the operation and the magnitude of the hazards associated with the radioactive waste and spent fuel, and the facility or activity.

(4) The licensing process shall—

- (a) contribute to safety in the facility or activity during normal operating conditions, anticipated operational occurrences and design basis accidents; and
- (b) provide the required assurance of safety in the facility or activity.

(5) In order to identify and reduce uncertainties, measures shall be in place to prevent accidents and mitigate the consequences of accidents, including verification of physical barriers and the licence holder's administrative protection procedures that would have to fail before workers and the general public would be significantly affected by ionising radiation.

Expertise and skills.

9. The Government shall ensure that the Nuclear Waste Management Framework requires all parties to make arrangements for education and training for their staff, as well as research and development activities to cover the needs of the programme for spent fuel and radioactive waste

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management in order to obtain, maintain and to further develop necessary expertise and skills.

Financial resources.

10. The Government shall ensure that the Nuclear Waste Management Framework requires that adequate financial resources be available when needed for the implementation of programmes referred to in regulation 12, especially for the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, taking due account of the responsibility of spent fuel and radioactive waste generators.

Transparency.

11.(1) The Government shall ensure that—

- (a) necessary information on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste are made available to workers and the general public; and
- (b) the public is given the necessary opportunities to participate effectively in the decision-making process regarding spent fuel and radioactive waste management in accordance with the laws of Gibraltar and any applicable international obligations.

(2) The obligation under subregulation (1)(a) includes ensuring that the competent regulatory authority informs the public in the fields of its competence and that information shall be made available to the public in accordance with any applicable law or other international obligation and subject to any exception as may be provided therein.

Nuclear Management Programme.

12. The Government shall—

- (a) implement a programme to be known as the Nuclear Management Programme for the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste covering all types of spent fuel and radioactive waste under its jurisdiction and all stages of spent fuel and radioactive waste management from generation to disposal; and
- (b) regularly review and update that programme, taking into account technical and scientific progress as appropriate as well

as recommendations, lessons learned and good practices from peer reviews.

Contents of the Nuclear Management Programme.

13.(1) The Nuclear Management Programme shall set out how the Government intends to implement its policies referred to in regulation 4 for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste to secure the aims of these Regulations, and shall include all of the following—

- (a) the overall objectives of the Government's policy in respect of spent fuel and radioactive waste management;
- (b) the significant milestones and clear timeframes for the achievement of those milestones in light of the over-arching objectives of the programme;
- (c) an inventory of all spent fuel and radioactive waste and estimates for future quantities, including those from decommissioning, clearly indicating the location and amount of the radioactive waste and spent fuel in accordance with appropriate classification of the radioactive waste;
- (d) the concepts or plans and technical solutions for spent fuel and radioactive waste management from generation to disposal;
- (e) the concepts or plans for the post-closure period of a disposal facility's lifetime, including the period during which appropriate controls are retained and the means to be employed to preserve knowledge of that facility in the longer term;
- (f) the research, development and demonstration activities that are needed in order to implement solutions for the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste;
- (g) the responsibility for the implementation of the programme and the key performance indicators to monitor progress towards implementation;
- (h) an assessment of the programme costs and the underlying basis and hypotheses for that assessment, which must include a profile over time;
- (i) any financing scheme in force;

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- (j) a transparency policy or process as referred to in regulation 11;
- (k) if any, the agreement concluded with a Member State or a third country on management of spent fuel or radioactive waste, including on the use of disposal facilities.

(2) The Nuclear Management Programme together with the policy may be contained in a single document or in a number of documents.

Notification.

14.(1) The Government shall ensure that the Commission is notified of its Nuclear Management Programme and any subsequent significant changes to that Programme.

(2) The Government shall ensure that the Commission is provided with any requested clarification or that the Commission is informed of any revision of the programmes or both, within 6 months of receiving the Commission's reaction pursuant to Article 13 of the Directive.

Reporting.

15.(1) The Government shall—

- (a) ensure a report is submitted to the Commission on the implementation of these Regulations for the first time by 23 August 2015, and every 3 years thereafter, taking advantage of the review and reporting under the Joint Convention;
- (b) periodically, and at least every 10 years, arrange for self-assessments of—
 - (i) the Nuclear Waste Management Framework,
 - (ii) the competent regulatory authority,
 - (iii) the Nuclear Management Programme and its implementation,

and invite international peer review of them with the aim of ensuring that high safety standards are achieved in the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste; and

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- (c) for the first time, notify the Commission of the content of the Nuclear Management Programme covering all the items provided for in regulation 13 as soon as possible, but not later than 23 August 2015.

(2) The outcomes of any peer review under subregulation (1) (b) shall be reported to the Commission and the other Member States, and may be made available to the public where there is no conflict with security and proprietary information.