

A OPERATIONAL NETWORK FOR RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION
IN FOODSTUFFS IN THE NETHERLANDS

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ABSTRACT

Almost thirty years a network of measuring devices for determination of radioactive contamination in foodstuff exists in the Netherlands. It had been designed in connection with the probability of "fall out" after an atom bomb explosion. Later on it was understood that such a system could be used in case of an accidental release of radioactivity after an accident with a nuclear chain reactor. In the early days of May 1986 (after the Chernobyl accident) the network came in operation in order to measure milk, meat, vegetables and other products. The system improved to be operational and became very important, not only to establish the contamination degree of products but also as a tool for controlling the effectiveness of measures that had been taken.

In the planned poster presentation the following aspects will be described and shown:

- the purpose of the network related to the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery in the Netherlands when radioactive contamination of animals, plants and products occurs.
- The extent of the network with special attention to the choice of the locations of the measuring devices and the products that can be measured.
- A technical description of the network. Attention will be paid to the following subjects:
 - * the equipment at the different locations:
detectors, multichannel analyser, calculation program. Data transfer to a centralized computer system and final presentation of arranged data;
 - * special measurements with sophisticated equipment.
- The operational procedures in case of an accident:
 - starting the network and to keep it in operation;
 - call together a coordination team;
 - connections with the nationally or regionally organized emergency management centre;
 - agricultural measures and their consequences.