UK STANDARDS FOR EXPOSURE TO RADON DAUGHTERS IN DWELLINGS

G.A.M. Webb and M.C. O'Riordan
National Radiological Protection Board
Chilton, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 ORQ, UK

ABSTRACT

The National Radiological Protection Board has issued formal advice on the standards to be adopted in the UK for control of exposures to radon daughters in existing dwellings and for changes in building procedures for future dwellings[1].

The standards are based on those recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection but adapted to circumstances in the United Kingdom. The matters taken into account by the Board when formulating its advice, and which are discussed in the paper, include the conversion from measured concentrations of radon to effective dose equivalent and the implied levels of risk, the comparison of these levels with risks from other causes, the numbers of dwellings in which various annual doses are likely to be exceeded, the geographical distribution of these dwellings, the likely costs and effectiveness of various remedial measures and the degree of domestic disruption.

The action level for existing dwellings selected by the Board was the same, 20 mSv per annum, as that recommended by the ICRP, but the Upper Bound for new dwellings of 5 mSv per annum was lower than that suggested by the ICRP.

(1) Exposure to radon daughters in dwellings. National Radiological Protection Board. ASP 10 (1987).