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INTERNATIONAL REPORTING SYSTEM OF UNUSUAL EVENTS (RADEV)

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A questioning and learning attitude by managers and operators of radiation sources and devices used in medicine, industry, research and teaching, combined with information on accidents, their initiating events and contributing factors is an efficient way to drastically reduce the probability of further accidents. The list of contributing factors can be readily used to test the vulnerability of a given facility.

The number of reported events in a single country is in most cases insufficient to provide significant body of lessons in a reasonable time. Therefore, an compilation of accidents at international level, would allow all countries to benefit from the lessons from each one of them. Moreover, unusual events which did not culminate in an accident can build up a body of knowledge to avoid real accidents. Therefore, it should be possible to obtain information on cases (near misses) that otherwise are not published in any scientific journal and would never reach the interested community.

For this reason, an International Reporting System of Unusual Events has been set up by the IAEA. The reporting system will consist of a database with protected fields for those confidential data which should not be included in the reports. The goals of this project is to compile the information, to revise it periodically, to extract lessons, to disseminate them so that they this knowledge can fed into the training programmes of different professionals such as: regulatory authorities on radiation safety, health authorities, managers of facilities where radiation sources are used, manufacturers and maintenance personnel and operators of these facilities.

The sources of information are expected to be national authorities on radiation protection and ministries of health, along with professional associations such as radiotherapy, medical physics radiation protection, industrial gammagraphy (non destructive testing) and industrial irradiators among others.