



Terms of Reference

Task Group on NORM

2021-2024

Introduction

In 2018, the IRPA Executive approved the establishment of a Task Group (TG) focussed on naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM). Currently, the TG has 17 members from 15 countries from all 5 continents. Since inception, the TG has been involved in chairing sessions and presenting on the TG at international conferences, plus development of a register of “good” practices with NORM management, with the aim of publishing an IRPA handbook. There remain a number of current and emerging issues with NORM that require active input from practitioners

Objective

- Increase awareness of issues related to NORM
- Develop and promote a library of good practice documents
- Influence policy makers, regulators and industry by collecting and reporting experiences of practitioners
- Ensure that controls for NORM are commensurate with the actual radiological risk
- Identify gaps at a global scale related to ethical foundations of radiation protection in working with NORM
- Engage with industry and other organisations (such as IAEA and ENA)
- Promote practical solutions which apply the graded approach
- Organise workshops, webinars and similar events
- Continue, as individual TG members, to be deeply involved in NORM at local and international levels, with regular communications between members to ensure that there is a consistent message about NORM and its risks

Membership

Co-Chairs: Rainer Gellermann; Jim Hondros

Vice-Chair: n/a

Exec Liaison: Cameron Jeffries

Nominees from AS will be confirmed/invited with the objective of wide participation ideally covering all regions: Africa, North and South America, Asia, Australia, and Europe.

Key Tasks

- Ensure that the radiological risks from NORM are always kept in right perspective.
- Continue to provide a practical perspective on the graded approach to NORM management.
- Ensure NORM issues addressed in the upcoming review of the ICRP system of radiation protection.
- Consider the impacts of NORM on the ability to recycle material in the future circular economy.

- Consider potential impacts on global trade from low levels of radioactivity.
- Continue to actively engage with industry, the IAEA and ICRP and other international and regional bodies on practical implications of NORM and its control.
- Continue to develop and finalise the “good” practice document.
- Development of a position (for IRPA EC consideration) on the impacts of NORM controls on the circular economy, supported by collecting and assessing practical experience from different regions.
- Continue to promote the TG at national and international conferences.

Working Methods

The work of the Task Group will be conducted principally via email, internet, and telephone. No physical meetings are envisaged.

The Exec liaison will provide progress reports to the IRPA Executive Council at each Executive Council meeting.

Approved by the IRPA Executive Council

Date: 17/12/21