



Australian Government

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

OPERATIONS SERVICES

STATEMENT OF REGULATORY POLICY

OS-MAN-SUP-020

Version: 3

Issue Date: November 2011

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1. PURPOSE

This statement of regulatory policy establishes a high-level framework for ARPANSA's regulatory activities under the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998* (the Act). It also sets the directions of ARPANSA's regulatory activities and informs the establishment and maintenance of assessment, monitoring, licence holder guidance and enforcement activities.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the CEO and staff of ARPANSA.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

A prime goal of regulation by ARPANSA is to provide assurance to the public and stakeholders about the safe management of the radiation and nuclear activities of the Australian Government.

The Act and the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulations 1999* (the Regulations) clearly define the responsibilities of controlled persons and licence holders to comply with the Act and the Regulations.

The CEO is responsible for ensuring that controlled persons and licence holders properly discharge their responsibilities under the Act and the Regulations. To fulfil this responsibility, ARPANSA will:

1. Establish and publish clear regulatory requirements, monitor and enforce compliance, and appropriately assist licence holders to improve safety.
2. Make independent, objective, informed and consistent regulatory decisions.
3. Operate cost-effectively by basing regulatory action on the level of risk to people and the environment.
4. Work transparently, with strong accountability to the Australian Government, the Parliament and the public.

Establish and publish clear regulatory requirements, monitor and enforce compliance, and appropriately assist licence holders to improve safety.

To meet this outcome ARPANSA will:

- Make standards, codes, policies and recommendations in accordance with the mechanisms established by the Act and the Regulations, including through consultation with stakeholders and the general public.
- Promote compliance with regulatory requirements and improvements in safety through educating and assisting licence holders and appropriate use of enforcement.
- Maintain an accurate, detailed and current regulatory management information system.
- Monitor the compliance of licence holders with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations through a program of inspections and regular reporting.

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- Review incidents and licence breaches reported by licence holders to ensure that lessons learned are circulated to other licence holders.

Make independent, objective and informed regulatory decisions on a consistent basis

To meet this outcome ARPANSA will:

- Undertake a timely and objective assessment of information provided by licence holders or applicants for licences and information obtained from public submissions.
- Ensure that there is an adequate level of competence available within ARPANSA and through networks of contacts to inform the regulatory assessment process.
- Make transparent and consistent regulatory decisions in accordance with the Act and the Regulations, using a risk-based approach.
- Cooperate with other Australian jurisdictions to improve ARPANSA's regulatory practices and contribute to improved regulatory processes adopted by other radiation regulators and interact, as appropriate, with overseas radiation protection and nuclear safety regulators.

Operate in a cost-effective manner, basing regulatory action on the level of risk to people and the environment

To meet this outcome ARPANSA will:

- Regulate licence holders and activities that are subject to the Act and the Regulations in a manner that is consistent with the risk posed by the regulated activity.
- Make regulatory decisions and allocate regulatory and compliance resources in a way that takes potential risks into account.
- Ensure that the costs of regulation are measured and allocated to licence holders on a fair and equitable basis and that there are regular reviews to ensure that regulatory costs are appropriate.
- Conduct the regulatory process in an effective and efficient manner and within a quality management system.
- Establish performance indicators for the regulatory process in consultation with stakeholders and report achievement against these performance indicators.
- Receive, act and report on stakeholder feedback.

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Work in a transparent manner with strong accountability to the Australian Government, the Parliament and the public

To achieve this outcome ARPANSA will:

- Make timely and effective reports of ARPANSA's regulatory performance to the Minister, the Parliament, and the public.
- Seek and take into account views of the Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council, the Nuclear Safety Committee and the Radiation Health Committee on matters relevant to regulatory decisions.
- Use the ARPANSA website and other communication tools to inform stakeholders and the public of ARPANSA's regulatory activities.
- Seek public submissions as required under the Act and the Regulations and take these into account in regulatory decision-making.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

The CEO is responsible for establishing and maintaining a high level regulatory and policy framework.

The Branch Head, Operations Services is responsible for:

- Implementing this policy
- Advising the CEO with respect to the implementation of this policy

Operations Services staff are responsible for:

- Undertaking activities as directed by the Branch Head
- Informing the Branch Head of ways to improve this policy.