Australian Government
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

Delivery Model

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Big Picture

In carrying out its regulatory function to protect people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation, ARPANSA has adopted innovative approaches to regulate more effectively and efficiently. We've redesigned our delivery model with good regulation principles and desired outcomes in mind. We are focused on improved decision-making that is informed by risks, more transparency and openness in communications, and more targeted intervention.

Nuts and Bolts - Facilities

- The baseline inspection schedule for facilities extends out 3 years
- Eight (8) inspection areas
- Each area is inspected at each facility at least once during the 3 years
- There is a lead inspector assigned to each licensed facility (and an alt)
- All inspections are planned
- Each inspection involves a team of two or more
- All inspections are conducted using Performance Objectives & Criteria (PO&C)
- Communication with the licence holder re an inspection begins weeks in advance and finishes weeks after (feedback)
- Two types of findings at an exit meeting: performance deficiencies and potential non-compliances

Nuts and Bolts - Sources

A very similar approach is taken for source licensees, with the exception of:

- The baseline inspection schedule looks out **5 years**
- All inspection areas are combined into a **single set of PO&Cs**

Performance Objectives & Criteria

- PO&Cs are used to measure a licensee's performance during an inspection
- Each inspection area sub topic will have PO&Cs
- Initially, the lead will have to draft PO&Cs during the planning phase
- The PO&Cs will be generic – some aspects may be N/A for a given facility
- Use of a generic PO&C document requires an understanding of what constitutes the "plans and arrangements" (or CLB) that are specific to that facility

What is a performance deficiency?

The licence holder's failure to meet self-imposed standards or expectations.

A performance deficiency does not rise to the level of significance of a potential non compliance. Because the licence holder is responsible for radiation and nuclear safety, it is expected that performance deficiencies are evaluated, prioritised, and addressed in a timely manner.

A potential non compliance with the Act, regulations, or licence conditions is more serious. Regulation 45 requires the licence holder to identify and rectify potential breaches as soon as reasonably practicable.

Plans and Arrangements

Compliance with “plans and arrangements” (P&A) is a licence condition as stipulated in Regulation 49. In essence, licensees must ensure that their activities comply with P&A’s.

The term “licensing basis” is often used overseas to refer to this collection of documents that provides the basis upon which the regulator issued a license.

The Current Licensing Basis (CLB), then, consists of the updated P&A’s as required by Regulation 50. The CLB is the set of ARPANSA requirements applicable to a specific facility, and a licensee's written commitments for ensuring compliance with and operation within applicable ARPANSA requirements and the facility-specific design basis (including all modifications and additions to such commitments over the life of the licence) that are in effect. The CLB includes licence conditions, OL&C’s, the facility specific design-basis information documented in the most recent final Safety Analysis Report (SAR), and the licensee's commitments remaining in effect that were made in correspondence to ARPANSA.

How do we use risk?

The baseline inspection schedule reflects the inherent risks of each facility (frequency and length of inspections)

ARPANSA does not anticipate the need for unannounced inspections. ARPANSA will rely on more frequent site visits to better understand licensee operations.

Should the performance of a licence holder degrade or slip, ARPANSA may perform additional inspections above and beyond the baseline.

Risk Informed

Cross-Cutting areas weigh heavily into risk-informed decisions

The need for augmented inspection will depend in large part on how the licensee is assessed with respect to:

- Safety Culture
- Human Performance
- Performance Improvement

Cross Cutting Areas

Individuals consider safety as the overriding priority. Their decisions and actions are based on this priority, and they follow up to verify that radiation or nuclear safety concerns receive appropriate attention. The work environment, the attitudes and behaviours of individuals, and the policies and procedures foster such a safety culture.

or

The behaviours of personnel result in safe and reliable station operation. Behaviours that contribute to excellence in human performance are reinforced to continuously strive for event-free operations.

or

Managers set high expectations with respect to continuous improvement. Self-assessment is routine in driving improved safety. The organisation finds and fixes its own problems.

Regulator Performance Framework

- Don’t impede unnecessarily the efficient operations of regulated entities
- Communicate clearly and effectively
- Regulatory actions are proportional to risks
- Compliance and monitoring approaches are streamlined and coordinated
- Open and transparent in dealings with licensees
- Actively contribute to continuous improvement of regulatory frameworks

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THANK YOU

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