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Categorisation of radioactive waste

Radioactive waste means radioactive material in gaseous, liquid or solid form for which no further use is foreseen [definition given by the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management]

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Management of spent fuel

Spent fuel is the name given to nuclear fuel that has been removed from a nuclear power or research reactor following irradiation. It is a mixture of plutonium, uranium and waste materials and is no longer usable as fuel. It is extremely radioactive and generates a large amount of heat and must be carefully managed. Individual Member States take different approaches to the long-term management of spent fuel, but all involve a period of interim storage at the nuclear power plant or research reactor site following the removal of the fuel from the reactor.

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Nuclear safety directive

Directive 2009/71/EURATOM establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations and its amendment, Directive 2014/87/Euratom

Worldwide, the nuclear safety of nuclear installations is governed by national legislation and the international conventions. Within the EU, this is being supplemented by an EU Directive.

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Basic safety standards directive

EU legislation in the field of safety

The EU also supports radiation protection through legislation contained in a series of Directives. Across the EU, the current Basic Safety Standards Directive (96/29/Euratom) sets out standards for radiation protection in the Member States.

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United Kingdom

Nuclear regulatory authority

The designated UK Nuclear Regulatory Authority responsible for regulating safety and security is the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). Since 1 April 2014 ONR has operated as an independent statutory body (a "public corporation"), having previously been part of the Health and Safety Executive. ONR is responsible for regulating nuclear safety, health and safety on nuclear sites, nuclear security, nuclear safeguards and the transport of radioactive material.

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Sweden

Nuclear regulatory authority

The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM) is the regulatory authority for nuclear safety, radiation protection, nuclear security and nuclear non-proliferation. SSM works proactively and preventively to maintain a high level of nuclear safety and radiation protection in Sweden and internationally.

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Spain

Nuclear regulatory authority

The Nuclear Safety Council (Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear, CSN) is the authority responsible for nuclear safety and radiological protection in Spain. It is an independent regulatory body which reports on its activities to the Parliament.

Spanish Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism (Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Turismo, MINETUR) is the governmental department in charge of defining and implementing the

energy policy.

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Slovenia

Nuclear regulatory authority

The Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration was established in 1988 and it is since 2012 a body within the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment. It is responsible for nuclear safety and radiation safety in industry and science, as well as transport and management of nuclear and radioactive materials.

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Slovak Republic

Nuclear regulatory authority

Úrad jadrového dozoru SR (Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic) is responsible for regulation of nuclear safety, and the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic for regulation of radiation protection.

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Romania

Nuclear regulatory authority

The independent Romanian administrative authority National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (www.cnca.ro) is responsible for nuclear safety, radiation protection, physical protection, emergency preparedness, decommissioning, transportation, technical safety of nuclear installations; regulation and control of spent fuel and radioactive waste, etc.

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